



“The Reformation of the Church of Christ”

1

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2

SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3

PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in
heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily
bread;

and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;

and lead us not into
temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

4

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of October 26-November 1, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Reformation of the Church of Christ

"The Reformation" is often considered a period in history that started in 1517 after Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. But this is more than a day to remember the works and ideas of a mere man. Think about it. Who can reform the church? Men like Luther? God forbid. You know that the Holy Christian Church is a creation of Christ and His Word, not the product of men and their ideas. Thus, the true "Reformation" is Christ's work to set aside human perversions of His saving Gospel. Our joy this week is that Christ used men like Luther to reform His bride from error through the faithful preaching of His Word.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:12-15 "A Kingdom of Peace, and a Kingdom of Violence"**

Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). That is a tremendous comfort. God is not at war with us; He is not even mad at us. All His wrath has been spent on Jesus, and we are the friends of God. This peace and friendship set us at war with the world, the devil, and even our own sinful flesh. The church of God is a church militant. The kingdom of God suffers violence. While we are at war with sin and death, we are at rest with God, at peace. We rejoice in this peace, and from the confidence that it gives we stand against all the assaults of the devil. *Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring Your enemies into Your peace, and grant them to stand with us as well. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 126 "Brought Back from Captivity"**

In 586 BC the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar walloped Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and carried almost all of the people away to Babylon. In 531 BC the Persian King Cyrus issued the decree of return, permitting the exiles to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. Psalm 126 comes for the joy of that journey home; the joy of God's anger relented, and the city given back to them. The church has taken up this Psalm at the time of the Reformation, rejoicing that the Lord has brought us back to the joy and confidence of His pure Gospel, taught from God's Word. *O Lord, our mouths are filled with laughter and our tongue with singing. You have done great things for us. Keep us in the joy and freedom of the forgiveness of all our sins. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 14:6-7 "What Shall We Do?"**

Contrary to popular sentiment, Revelation is one of the most comforting books in the Bible. The timeless message? Christ reigns, Christ wins, and we will reign and win with Him. In Revelation 14:6,7 we see an angel proclaiming an eternal gospel to all people. Reconciled to God in Christ, all the nations of the earth are told to "fear God and give Him glory ... and worship Him Who made [all things]." Let us not live our days in fear of current events. Let us live our days worshipping the God Who has saved us by grace, through faith, and apart from works. *Most merciful God, thank You for restoring us to You in Christ our Savior! Amen.*

WED**SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21 The Unmerited Love of God**

The Lord of heaven and earth, God of gods, and Lord of lords (v. 17) "set His heart in love" on Israel (v.15). Yes, the Lord God chose Israel, a sinful people, an ungrateful and rebellious nation, to be His chosen people. No merit or worthiness in Israel produced such singlehearted love of God. Yet the LORD who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34:6), chose Israel in love to be His people. It is this singlehearted love of God in Christ that calls sinners out of the darkness of death and sin into the marvelous light of Christ to be for Him a holy people (1 Pet. 2:9). *O Lord, as Your chosen in Christ, help me to walk in all Your ways, love and serve You above all things. Amen.*

THU**SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17 The Fruit of the Vine through the Branches**

Where do the branches end and the Vine begin? Or vice versa? That's the idea exactly! What goes on in the Divine Service comes from our Lord, the Vine. This is the life that He gives to the world in the Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments. The power contained in preaching and teaching and absolution at church is how Jesus (the Vine) works in the Church (the Branches). Therefore, it is difficult to discern where the Vine ends and the Branches begin. He has included His Church in Himself, for she is His very own body. When we go to church and hear the Gospel and receive the Lord's own body and blood, or when we hear the pastor forgive us, we receive through the branches, the fruit of Christ, the life of the Vine. *Lord Jesus, show us Yourself at work through real means of grace. Amen.*

FRI**SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8 For This Purpose**

Sin is what separates us from the life of God and joins us to death and the devil. Jesus comes to undo this, to undo our death, to undo our bondage and set us free. Look at how John says it, "For this reason the Son of God was manifest, that He might destroy the works of the devil." The devil that gives you so much trouble, he is destroyed by Jesus. The sin that gives you so much trouble, it is forgiven by Jesus. The death that is staring you down, it is destroyed by Jesus. You are His, and life is yours. *Lord Jesus, keep us in Your forgiveness and life. Amen.*

SAT**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 Many Enemies, One Really Good Friend**

Christians have enemies. If we don't know this the Psalms will never make sense to us. "Strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life" (Psalm 54:3). If we can't identify our enemies, then we at least remember that the world, the flesh, and the devil are tracking us down to wreck our trust in Christ. Yes, we have enemies, but we also have a friend, a helper greater than our troubles. "Behold, God is my helper." We announce it to the world. "The Lord is the upholder of my life." He delivers us from trouble, and we give thanks to Him. *O God, save me by Your name and vindicate me by Your Might. Amen.*

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5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Ps. 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, / (O Lord,)*
and shall not be / put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at / all times;*
his praise shall continually be / in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast / in the LORD;*
let the humble hear / and be glad.

Come, O children, lis- / -ten to me;*

I will teach you the fear / of the LORD.

The LORD redeems the life of his / servants;*

None of those who take refuge in him will / be condemned.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 3:21-22

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

7

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656

Martin Luther



1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On Earth is not his equal.

This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.