

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE

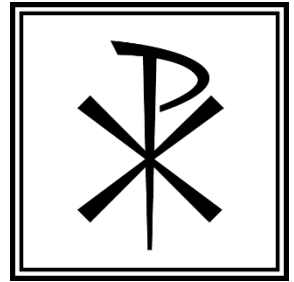
Dallas/Fort Worth Area WELS Congregations
Calvary Lutheran Church + Dallas, TX

“A HAPPY EXCHANGE”

God has exchanged places with us – or so Paul explained to the Corinthians in the section of his second letter that forms the basis of our celebration and of our message this evening.

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

4:00PM



Please stand for the final stanza



All 1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus
Women 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er
Men 3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord,
Choir 4 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees
All 5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult



Christ, her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By
 all the earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One
 to de - fend, To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, Is
 her op - pressed, By schisms rent a - sun - der, By
 of her war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of



wa - ter and the Word. From heav'n he came and
 Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she
 with her to the end. Though there be those that
 her - e - sies dis - tressed, Yet saints their watch are
 peace for - ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion



sought her To be his ho - ly bride; With his own
 bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And to one
 hate her And strive to see her fail, A - gainst both
 keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the
 glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest And the great



blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
 hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 foe and trai - tor She ev - er shall pre - vail.
 night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

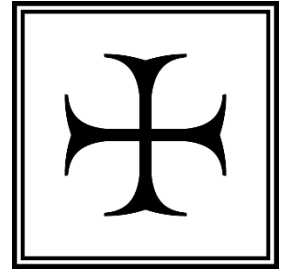
Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.
 Tune: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76.

Samuel J. Stone was moved to write this hymn and eleven others, all based on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn was written on the ninth article of the Creed, "The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints." It is of importance on Reformation Day with its focus on Christ alone (*solus Christus*) and reference to the battles of the Church Militant.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.



M In the meantime in the same year (1519) I had begun again to lecture on the Psalter, believing that with my classroom experience in lecturing on the Psalms and the Letters of Paul to the Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, I was now better prepared.

C **The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

M All the while I was absorbed with the passionate desire to get better acquainted with the author of Romans. Not that I did not succeed, as I had resolved, in penetrating more deeply into the subject in my investigation, but I stumbled over the words concerning “the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel.” For the concept of God’s righteousness was repulsive to me, as I was accustomed to interpret it according to scholastic philosophy, namely as the “formal or active” righteousness, in which God proves himself righteous in that he punishes the sinner as an unrighteous person.

In the words spoken by the minister, Dr. Luther remembered his “tower experience” in which he came to understand the central teaching of the Scriptures.

C **In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and save me.**

M After days and nights of wrestling with the problem, God finally took pity on me, so that I was able to comprehend the inner connection between the two expressions, “the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel” and “the just shall live by faith.”

C **But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.**

M Then I began to comprehend the righteousness of God through which the righteous are saved by God’s grace, namely, through faith; that the righteousness of God which is revealed through the gospel was to be understood in a passive sense in which God through mercy justifies man by faith, as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” Now I felt exactly as though I had been born again, and I believed that I had entered Paradise through widely opened doors.

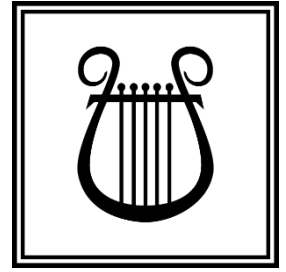
C **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

M I then went through the Holy Scriptures as far as I could recall them from memory, and I found in other parts the same sense: the “work of God” is that which he works in us, the “strength of God” is that through which he makes us strong, the “wisdom of God” that through which he makes us wise, and so the “power of God,” the “blessing of God,” and the “honor of God” are likewise to be interpreted.

C **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”**

M As violently as I had formerly hated the expression “the righteousness of God,” so I was now as violently compelled to embrace the new conception of grace and, thus, for me, the expression of the apostle really opened the gates of paradise.

C **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**



God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
 ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
 chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way; In death it
 is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
 teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Nikolai Gruntvig added this stanza to his "free Danish version" of Luther's "Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott". Today we sing it in thanks for God's work through the reformers in discovering the Word and giving into the hands of people. We also sing in anticipation of the Word we are about to hear.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Almighty God, through the preaching of your servants, the blessed Reformers, you caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of your holy name; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 53



It's not a pretty picture, but in this vivid description from Isaiah we get to see what Jesus became, namely, what he was not, but, instead, what we were. He did this so that we might become what we were not. A "great exchange" indeed!

ISAIAH 53:1 Who has believed our message
 and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
 and like a root out of dry ground.
 He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
 nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
 3 He was despised and rejected by men,
 a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
 Like one from whom men hide their faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
 yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
 the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
 and by his wounds we are healed.
 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
 he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
 and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
 And who can speak of his descendants?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;
 for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,
 though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
 and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
 he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
 and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

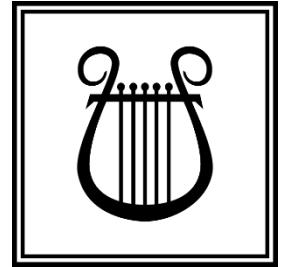
¹¹ After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
 by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
 and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
 because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
 For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm

If God Is for Us

Setting by James Chepponis
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The choirs sing the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.

Refrain

Musical notation for the first line of the refrain: *If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?*

Musical notation for the second line of the refrain: *God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.*

The new hymnal in production by the WELS Commission on Worship and Northwestern Publishing House will include a separate Psalter. Included in that collection of Psalms will be this version of Psalm 46 with a refrain from Romans 8 in a setting by James Chepponis.

The choir sings the verses of the song.

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present aid,
 and therefore, though the earth be moved, we will not be afraid;
 Though hills into the seas be cast, though foaming waters roar,
 the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

Refrain

A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God,
 the holy dwelling of the Lord, the place of God's abode.
 Since God is in the midst of it, our safety is secure;
 the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

Refrain

Behold, the wondrous deeds of God who causes wars to cease;
 The weapons of the strong destroyed, God brings abiding peace.
 "Be still and know that I am God, exalted evermore;"
 the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

Refrain

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Paul discusses the "ministry of reconciliation", concluding with the "great exchange". In his treatise, *Freedom of a Christian*, Luther referred to this as the "froehliche Wechsel" or "happy exchange".

CHORALE

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace | CW 288



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - cous - ness To
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From
 5 It bears to all the ti - dings glad And



sent his Son to save our race, Pro -
 made the a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice And
 robe our souls in roy - al dress; From
 sin and Sa - tan and the grave; It
 bids their hearts no more be sad; The



claims how Je - sus lived and died That
 calls the souls with guilt op - pressed To
 all our guilt it brings re - lease And
 works the faith which firm - ly clings To
 wea - ry, bur - dened souls it cheers And



we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 all the trea - sures which it brings.
 ban - ish - es their guilt - y fears.

Stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Lesson

John 3:5-21

The “great exchange” is couched within Jesus’ explanation of the Trinity’s work as explained to Nicodemus.

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

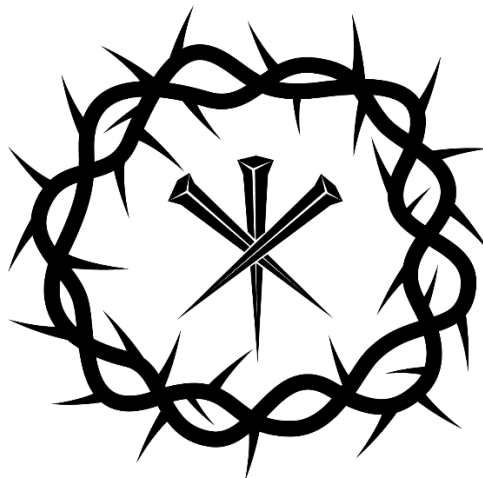
¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

The “great exchange” is couched within Jesus’ explanation of the Trinity’s harmonious work of salvation, as explained to Nicodemus.

Following the Gospel:

M The Gospel of the Lord.

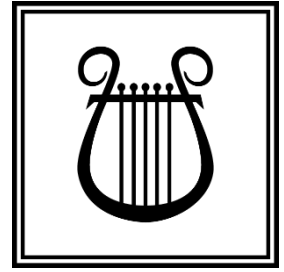
C Thanks be to God!



HYMN OF THE DAY

Reformation Song

Text and Music: Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin | Arranged by Dan Kreider
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1 Your word a - lone is sol - id ground, the might - y
2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you, we have no
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied, his right - eous -
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved, all that we
5 And on this Ref - or - ma - tion day we join with



rock on which we build. In ev - 'ry line the truth is
mer - it we can claim, sure that your prom - is - es are
ness is all our plea. Your law's de - mands are sat - is -
are has come from you. Hearts that were once by sin en -
saints of old to sing; we lift our hearts as one in



found, and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled.
true, we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
fied, his per - fect work has set us free.
slaved, now by your pow'r have been made new.
praise: glo - ry to Christ our gra - cious King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

The new hymnal will also include this "Reformation Song" based on the "solas" of the Reformation. The fifth stanza was specifically added for an occasion such as today.

SERMON

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Look What God Has Done!

Please stand.

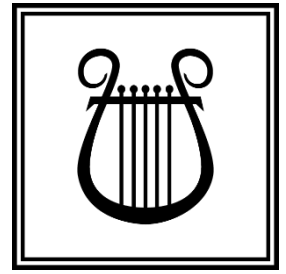


CREED (Te Deum)

We Praise You and Acknowledge You

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Tune: Public domain



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"
You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing, A-men, O Lord, a-men!

Luther valued the ancient Te Deum Laudamus and suggested it might be considered among the ecumenical creeds of the Christian Church.

OFFERING, FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and MUSICAL OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR REFORMATION DAY

Let us pray to our dear Father in heaven as His dear children, asking Him to hear us for the sake of Christ and to grant us all things needful and all things beneficial for our salvation.

Brief silence

Gracious God, You have renewed Your Church in every age and generation with the voices of those who recall Your people to the Gospel and who speak Your Word in times both easy and difficult. Receive our thanks for blessed Martin Luther and those with him who contended for the

Gospel against many and great enemies. Make us so bold that we may, in our own age and our own time, contend for the faith against those who would silence our voices or distract Your people from the one true Gospel of Christ crucified and risen. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



Holy Lord, You continue to bless Your Church with faithful pastors and church workers who are determined to know only Jesus Christ. Bless those who serve Your people with the Means of Grace, that they may be preserved in temptation and sustained in trial. Open the hearts of many to hear Your call to full-time service in the various places where You will and according to the gifts and abilities You provide. Give to the people in their care wisdom to hear the voice of Your Word and to mark false gospels and false preachers. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Your Word is truth. Keep us from abandoning pure doctrine and preserve us from pride lest we fail to use Your truth to call a new generation to know and love You. Be with all the baptized, that we may live out fully the new life You have granted to us by water and the Word, and guide us to serve our neighbors in love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, You have great power and yet You act with mercy. Teach those who lead us in this land to use power rightly and to act mercifully in the preservation of order, the accomplishment of justice, the protection of life and the defense of the weak. Give us wise, godly and faithful leaders who will follow Your commands and serve with integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, You have continually been the defender of the weak, the advocate for the poor, and the help of the sick and those in need. Deliver the sick in accordance with Your will, relieve their suffering, and grant them patience and peace. Give to the aged Your comfort and peace. Give to the grieving hope and the consolation of the Gospel and the resurrection of the dead. Give to the dying Your presence, and bring them into the place of everlasting light and life until the day when we shall be joined with them in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Lord, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help us to know it well, and keep us from departing from Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. We pray on behalf of those who have fallen away from the truth, those whose zeal for Your house has grown cold, and those who are tempted by doubt and fear. Bring them again into Your presence, and restore their faith and their place within the fellowship of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

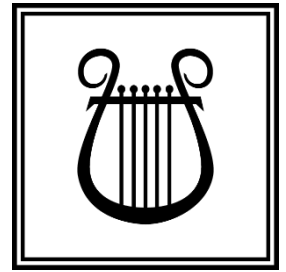
Almighty Father, You know best the needs of Your Church, Your people and Your world. Help us not to squander Your gifts, but to apply our hearts diligently to the wisdom of Your Word and the work of Your kingdom. Bless the foreign mission fields of our Church, and give to newly formed churches and congregations grace sufficient to grow and prosper according to Your gracious will. Receive our tithes and offerings as part of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, that You may be glorified and the work of Your kingdom prospered. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason, but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

"I urge you to ask, pray, plead, and give thanks for all people" (1 Timothy 2:1). In the Prayer of the Church the congregation takes Paul at his word and offers petitions and thanksgivings for all in authority and for various human needs.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,
 2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were
 3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less
 4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry,



Lord; Not un - to us but to your name be praise;
 made; A - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;
 years; For - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;
 Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



Not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be
 A - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous -
 Un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from
 A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and



giv'n For match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.
 ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.
 you But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.
 done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93, alt. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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Rev. Kurt J. Eggert, project director for *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, penned the text and tune for this hymn in 1975 in celebration of the 125 anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The hymn reminds us today that for our recognition of Reformers, all glory for the Gospel belongs to God.

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

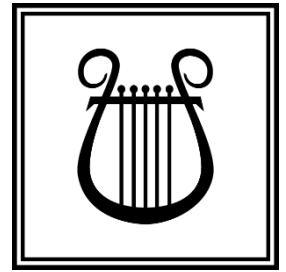
C Amen.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
 Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C Amen.



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.
 He holds the field for - ev - er.
 One lit - tle word can fell him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

Our service closes with the rally cry of the Reformation, Luther's "A Mighty Fortress is Our God". First published in 1529 under the title "The 46th Psalm", its message was a great comfort to the Luther and his friends during the difficult days of the Reformation. It remains a source of comfort today.



"Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum" is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation. It is based on 1 Peter 1:24-25 and appeared first in the court of Frederick the Wise (Luther's ruler and benefactor) in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, which was worn by all who worked and served in the court – prince and servant alike. It was subsequently used by his successors, his brother John the Steadfast and his nephew John Fredrick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League (a Lutheran defense force of sorts) and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them.