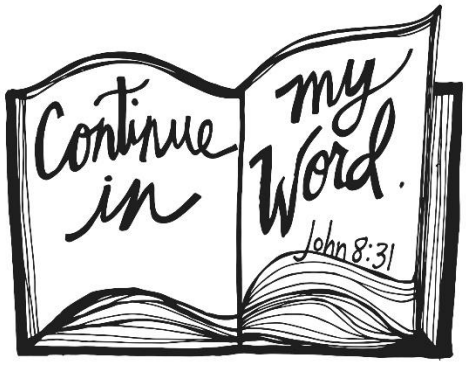
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Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026
ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ (Musqueam) and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELCIC LITANY
Living out God's grace and unconditional love and rooted in God's steadfast promises, we give thanks for the 40 years of ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

We commend the unchanging gifts and blessings of the God who creates, redeems, and sanctifies, and at the same time transforms us to live freely in love.
Thanks be to God.

We confess that the hope found in the gospel of Jesus inspires us, guides us, and empowers us to live in community and serve one another for such a time as this.
Thanks be to God.

We commit to be part of the Christian tradition that is always reforming, not just for the sake of change, but to be more grounded by grace, rooted in righteousness, and flourishing through faith, that we might more fully live out our calling as God's people in the world, speaking and living the good news of our salvation as beacons of God's truth and light.
Thanks be to God.

And now we journey forward together, to celebrate and rejoice, to discover and discern, to welcome and include, to work together and serve,
with humility and attentiveness to a world in need of God's grace.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

GATHERING SONG: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (#504)

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ growing within us,
the love of God, binding us together,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit that breathes new life,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY
We give you thanks, O God, that through the proclamation of your Word and the administering of your sacraments, you give us new birth. That with 40 years of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, we are built up to be the one body of Christ, we are fed and nourished by your truth and grace, and we are anointed to be faithful agents of your justice, reconciling with you and each other around the world.
So on this day that commemorated this anniversary and the Lutheran Reformation, stir up in us the gifts of your Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34
A reading from Jeremiah.
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house
of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their
ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant
that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will
make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and
I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer
shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and
remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
6 **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth melts away.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
8 **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28
A reading from Romans.
Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that
every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no
human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes
the knowledge of sin.
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested
by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all
who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ
Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through
faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had
passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his
own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works?
No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from
works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36
The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my
disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered
him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you
mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there
forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Here I Am, Lord (#574)

CREED

With all of God's people, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led to live in freedom and truth, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "in your very present mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer.** In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are our refuge and strength, and you help us in our times of need. Give us vision for the future of your church, that as we continue in our ministry and service, we do not lose hope but continue to seek your love and truth. In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, in you there is no fear. Even if the world crumbles around us, we know that your love will remain. Strengthen us as a church celebrating 40 years of ministry, that we continue to be a beacon of your truth and grace. We also lift in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops; rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for Grace Lutheran Church in Victoria and the pastors and leaders that serve them; and for Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Surrey and their pastor Lori-Anne Boutin Crawford. In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we know that you are residing in our midst, holding us in our fears and strengthening us in our weaknesses. Strengthen our stewardship of all that you've entrusted to us, and may your love and grace be reflected in our care of this planet. In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, even as the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, your truth and grace stand firm as our source of strength and hope. Instill in the newly elected officials throughout our cities and province a sense of your wisdom, that they govern with compassion and wisdom. We pray for the other nations of the world that are going through similar elections and possible transitions,

that we might collectively move a step closer to true peace. We also pray for the continued support of those that we've helped to come into this country: Abraham Berhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri, Surafiel, Nohom, and Elita Gabramikael. In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are with us as our stronghold, watching over us and protecting us from harm. We pray for those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your love and strength can be felt in and through all of us. Especially we pray for the Rostad family; the Joughin family; Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Janet; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Pastor Carol; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; Sarasawathi (SAR-ah-sa-WAH-tee); Hugh; Wai Lan (why-LAHN); and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time… In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, in our stillness, we acknowledge that you are our God, exalted among the nations, blessing us with your grace, and present throughout all of eternity. Remind us of our unending and unchanging connection with you and all the saints, that we might live in faithful service and community as your people in the world. In your very present mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the truth shown to us by Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who teaches us the ways of your truth and sets us free
to be joined with all the choirs of angels,
the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth
in praising your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God, you are our refuge and strength, our very present help in trouble. In you, we have nothing to fear, even if the earth were to be moved or the mountains shake in the depths of the sea. You are present with us and you welcome us into your midst, that not even raging nations would be able to shake our innermost peace. For it is in the calm stillness that we see your face and are empowered to proclaim you as God, redeeming us and freeing us through the life and teachings of your Son Jesus.

As on that night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it and said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after that he took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for them to drink from saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

So it is in this bread and cup that we can see the works and blessings of God, moving us to together confess this mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God, we know you reign over all the earth with power and might and peace and love, and we stand in awe of your presence. May all glory and honour be to you, through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Freed to be one in the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see the freedom in God's truth.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (#588)
Just As I Am, without One Plea (#592)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
O Lord, we praise you and stand in awe of your name, for you have fed and nourished us with your Word and truth, and you set us free to be your reformed people in the world. Increase our faith and strengthen our service that your love and grace be reflected in all that we do in our homes, communities, and lives, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING
May the God of truth bless you with freedom and hope, the God of grace shine goodness and righteousness on you, and the God of our salvation continually reform us in community and peace, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Drawn to the Light (#593)

DISMISSAL
Go in peace, live freely in God's truth and love.
Thanks be to God.

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