

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS
503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723
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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

REFORMATION (Observed)

October 26, 2025, 11:00 AM

Contemporary Service



AS WE GATHER

In our fallen humanity, we resist the reality that God is our mighty fortress, “our refuge and strength” (Psalm 46:1). We allow our fears to cause us to freeze when nations rage, mountains are moved, and waters roar and foam. We become afraid when life is not playing out the way we had planned. Our fears do not change the fact that “the LORD of hosts is with us.” Our God baptizes us in the river of life and promises us a place where “there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” This paradise and God’s ever presence are ours because of Jesus.



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Better is One Day"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**How lovely is Your dwelling place,
oh Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied,
within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings**

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (repeat)**

**One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells
One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells**

Bridge:

**My heart and flesh cry out, for You the living God
Your spirit's water for my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You**

WELCOME

INVOCATION *(Please stand)*

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus’ sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us, “The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 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, listen 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.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord,
and shall not be put to shame.

(Please be seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

"You Are My King"

(Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**I'm forgiven,
because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well,
Your Spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again (Repeat)**

Chorus:

**Amazing love, how can it be
That You my king would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You**

Bridge:

Jesus, You are my King. (Sing 4 times)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people.
Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of
temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your
saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Revelation 14:6-7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 *(Please stand)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:

"I'm In the Lord's Army"

**I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry,
shoot the artillery.**

I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's army.

I'm in the Lord's army, I'm in the Lord's army.

**I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry,
shoot the artillery.**

I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's army.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

"Ancient Words"

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Ending)

**Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.**

**Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.**

Chorus:

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

**Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.**

**Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

Chorus 2X:

Ending:
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart

MESSAGE

OFFERING

(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)

PRAYERS *(Please stand)*

LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *(AGNUS DEI)*

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord, God almighty reigns.

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord, God almighty reigns. Alleluia.

Holy, holy are You Lord, God almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

For You are holy, holy are You Lord, God almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER *(Please be seated)*

DISTRIBUTION SONG

"Know Me"

(5 verses)

Oh God, know me

Oh God, know me

For your holiness is all I desire

For your righteousness is all I desire

Your unending love is all I desire

Oh God know me.

2. Oh God, hold me...
3. Oh God, forgive me...
4. Oh God, heal me...
5. Oh God, speak to me...

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Your Love is Deep”

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Bridge, Chorus)

Chorus:

Your love is deep, Your love is high
Your love is long, Your love is wide
Your love is deep, Your love is high
Your love is long, Your love is wide

Your love is deeper than my view of grace
Higher than this worldly place
Longer than this road I travel
Wider than the gap you've filled

Deeper than my view of grace
Higher than this worldly place
Longer than this road I've traveled
Wider than the gap You've filled

Bridge:

Who shall separate us?
Who shall separate us from your love?
Nothing can separate us.
Nothing can separate us from your love. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THANKS *(Please stand)*

Amen

BLESSING

(Please be seated)

SONG TO DEPART

"Cornerstone"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Verse)

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name**

Chorus

**Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all**

**When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil Chorus**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne**

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS, 503 S. State St., Caro, Michigan CCLI#277564

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