

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday (Year C)

Freedom is not necessarily the absence of chains. We who are sinners don't wear shackles, yet we know ourselves to be in bondage to all that draws us away from our Lord. The truth of all truths is that Jesus, the one and only Son of God, took on flesh and lived among us — pointing us to the source of true freedom, his own self. If we abide in Him, he abides in us, and we are truly free from sin and death.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Revelation 14:6-7

An Angel's Message

John described from his apocalyptic vision an angel who flew overhead and delivered a message to the inhabitants of the earth. "Give God the glory!" was the basis of the news that was directed at every tribe and nation.

Psalms 46

God is our Refuge and Strength

Even in the midst of trial and calamity, the psalmist asserted, it is God who is a very present help in times of troubles. God is in the center of all life and is the protection for his people. He is a fortress and ruler of all that is.

Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

The Law Points to Sin

Paul explained to the Romans that those who are held under the law will be judged by the law as the law points to sin. But those who believe in Christ are justified, made right with God, by grace through faith. All this is done apart from the law, for the law kills, but the Gospel saves.

Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-36

Truth is Freedom

Jesus taught the Jews who believed in him that if they would abide in his word, then they would truly be his followers. When they remained in his word, they would know the truth and would thus be made free. This presented the Jews with a conundrum: They didn't understand what Jesus meant by being free — they thought they were already free. But Jesus was speaking about bondage to sin and therefore death.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is red.
- * The Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise are appropriate for Reformation.
- * Use the Apostles' Creed.
- * Consider having someone dress up as Martin Luther and do a dramatic sermon highlighting the nailing of the 95 theses and other key events of the Reformation.
- * Try hosting a Reformation Day Party for your youth. A downloadable PDF that gives ideas for what to include and a sample schedule can be found on the Pentecost Fall Seasonal Page.
- * For a downloadable PDF on Luther's life and 16th-century Germany, go to the Pentecost Fall Seasonal Page.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
A Mighty Fortress is Our God	229	---	657	504	169	169
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
Rise, Shine, You People!	393	---	825	665	---	---
Salvation Unto Us Has Come	297	---	555	590	---	---
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	367	747	909	645	---	---
The Church's One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
All Who Believe and Are Baptized	194	---	601	442	75	75
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320	---	733	632	225	225
God's Word is Our Great Heritage	239	---	582	509	70	70

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

By Grace We Have Been Saved
(CCLI# 2944142)
Only By Grace
(CCLI# 190579)
Your Grace Is Enough
(CCLI# 4477026)
I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
(CCLI# 699331)
Rock of My Salvation
(CCLI# 30756)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.