

# *Reformation Sunday*

**October 27, 2024**

10:30 a.m. Worship



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Stand Up For Jesus*

*Lani Smith, Arranger*

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.*

*P: Gracious God,*

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.*

**C: Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Thy Strong Word (verses 1-3)*

*ELW #511*

### **\*GREETING**

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Glory to God*

*ELW # S204a*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray ...* Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> 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.

*L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.*

## **HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*ELW # 504*

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

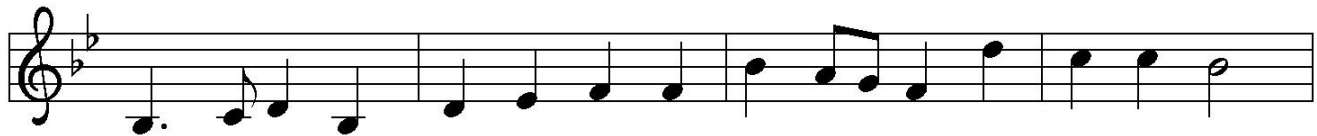
<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

*L:* The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*ELW # S 205a*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Gospel:** John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup> 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’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

*P:* The Gospel of the Lord. *C:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

*ELW # 517*

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

*P:* Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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 THE CHURCH**

*A:* Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A:* Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*A:* Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*A:* Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*A:* Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*A:* Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*A:* Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*P:* Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray ...* Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* 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 Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

***C:* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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. 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.**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW # S208*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.





1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,  
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,  
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,  
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.  
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil  
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,  
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.  
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

### \*BLESSING

*P:* May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C:* **Amen.**

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*A:* *Let us pray...* Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *C:* **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P:* God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

*C:* Amen.

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Thy Strong Word (verses 4-6)*

*ELW # 511*

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P:* Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Dwelling In His Word*

*Robert J. Hughes, Composer*

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones by  
Linda Smith.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolytes – Ben Decker, Norah Kuster, Gavin Kuster

Our Assisting Minister – Steve Oswalt

Our Lector – Jane Hoenstine

Our Usher – Tina Harclerode

Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal and Tonya Walter

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “United Lutheran Seminaries”**

**This Week at St. Matthew:  
814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Jen – Mon. Fri.: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**This Week Events**

**Today –** *Reformation Sunday*  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Lutheran Home Halloween Party 6:00 p.m., Hollidaysburg

**Tuesday –** Knotty Ladies 12:30-3:00 p.m., Quilting Room  
Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m., Window Room

**Thursday –** Trick or Treat 6:00-8:00 p.m., Maple Street Entrance

**Sunday –** *All Saints Sunday*  
Daylight savings time ends  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Tana Byler, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Pat Mountain, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Karyl Sawinski, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Steve Torres, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our

**Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

## Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Mt. Pleasant Church will be assisting the regular volunteers with food distributions on the first and third Thursdays, November 7 and November 21 from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m. Several churches in our



community, will be providing Thanksgiving dinners for food pantry families, about 50 to 60 families, to prepare for themselves.

**Items most needed for November are:** Juice, Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Jelly, Paper Towels.

*Many thanks for all your donations!*

*Linda Smith*

## All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2024

Please submit any names you would like recognized on All Saints Sunday to the church office by completing the form below. **October 30, 2024** is the deadline.

You can also submit names using our Email address: [stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com)

**Person submitting:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Martinsburg Community Thanksgiving Meal



The Martinsburg Community Thanksgiving Meal will be served at 5pm Monday November 11, 2024, at the Church of God. St Matthew's Lutheran Church will provide the desserts for this community meal. The Social Ministry Committee needs the congregation's support to complete this task. Word from the pews say we have numerous good cooks/ bakers in our congregation. We are looking for desserts that emphasize TASTE OF FALL/THANKSGIVING. A sign-up list will be on the bulletin board till October 27. You can deliver your desserts to the Church of God by 4 pm or drop off at St Matthew's by 3:30 pm and the Social Ministry Committee will see they arrive safely to the Church of God. In the past the Community Thanksgiving Meal has served up to 150 people. The Social Ministry Committee appreciates the congregation's prayers and support for this event.

*Lottie Ebersole,  
Committee Chairman*



## Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

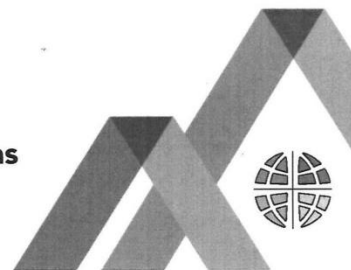
Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the coast of Florida within weeks of each other as powerful and devastating storms impacting states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene and any other storms that may strike this season.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to these disasters and others, whenever and wherever they strike.**



**Scan the QR code to give today.**

**By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.**



If you prefer to make your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response through a donation to St. Matthew, please designate which disaster and the amount on the memo line of your check or envelope.

Join Pastor Traci & Otto at St. Matthew for

# TRICK OR TREAT

*No Trick or Treaters in your neighborhood?  
No problem! We had over 100 ghosts  
& goblins visit at church last year.*



6-8PM  
Thursday  
October 31

Throw on a costume &  
join us to give out candy.  
Shopping for Trick or Treat?  
Grab an extra bag for St. Matthew.  
(Please drop off by Wednesday the 30th)



## **In honor of Veterans' Day**

The D. Merl Tipton VFW Post 43 Auxiliary  
is hosting a buffet lunch on

**Sunday, November 10, 2024**

**12 Noon to 1:30 pm**

**VFW Post 43**

**115 S. Nicodemus Street, Martinsburg, PA**

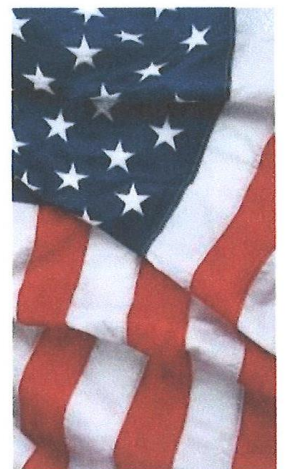
All Veterans and a guest are invited to attend.

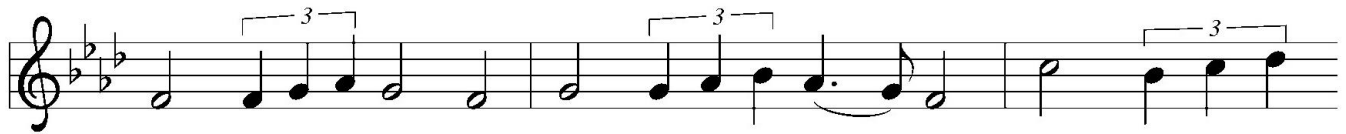
You do not need to be a VFW member to attend.



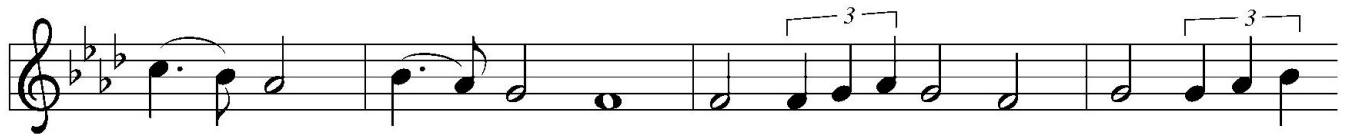
In order to plan for the buffet, you must make a reservation to attend by calling Jane Fagans at 814 793-4401 (leave a message if there is no answer). Deadline to RSVP is Monday, November 4, 2024.

The VFW Post 43 Auxiliary looks forward to seeing you on November 10th. Enjoy good food and conversation with fellow Veterans and friends.





1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

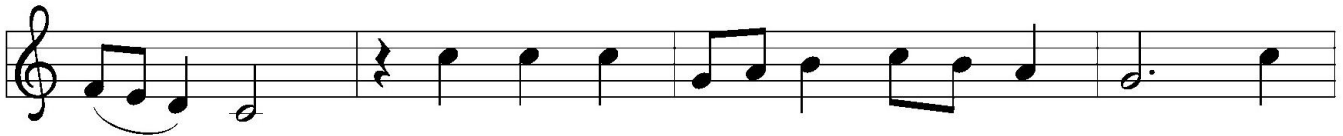
5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,  
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 mouths to speak thy holy name.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 May the light which thou dost send  
 fill our songs with alleluias,  
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 to thee laud and honor be.  
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 glory, glory be to thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 praise the holy Trinity!

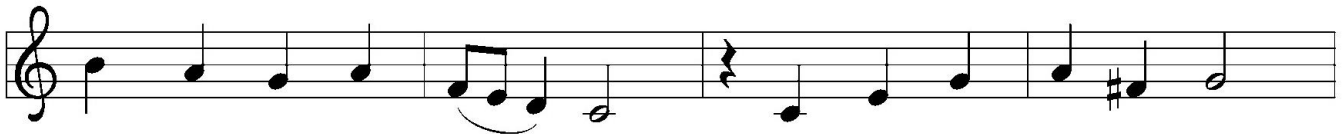




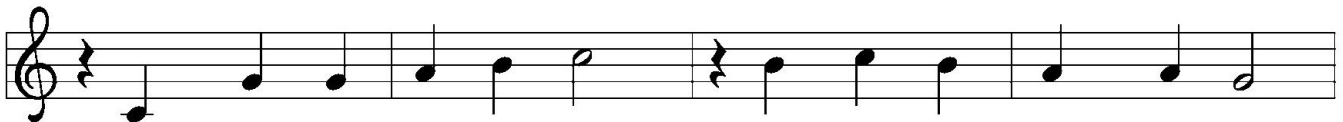
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



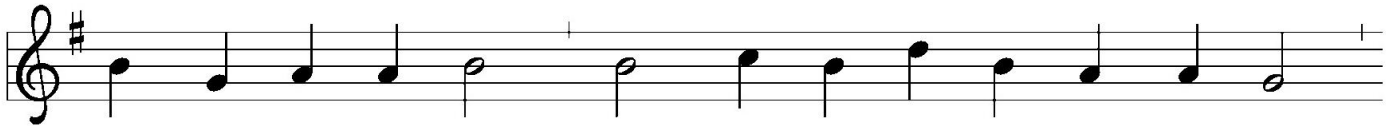
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

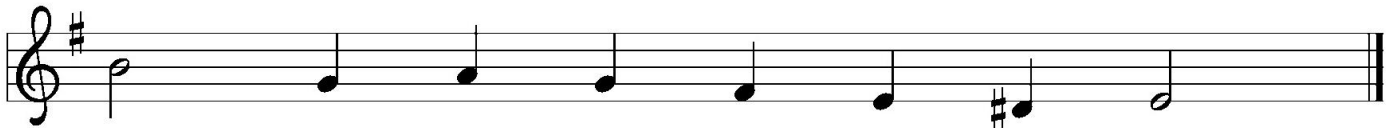
*ELW # 517*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

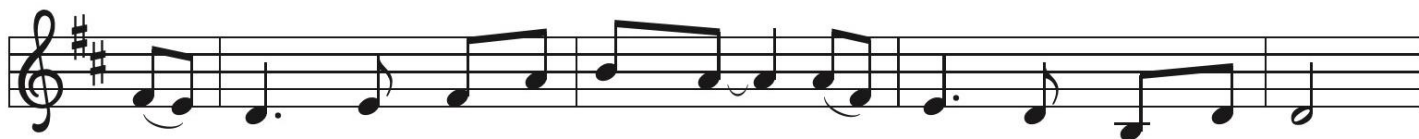


and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,  
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,  
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,  
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.  
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil  
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,  
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

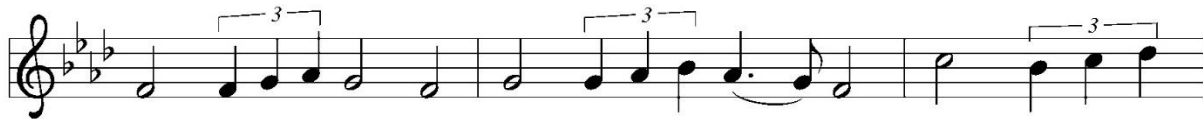


where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.  
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,  
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 mouths to speak thy holy name.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 May the light which thou dost send  
 fill our songs with alleluias,  
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 to thee laud and honor be.  
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 glory, glory be to thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 praise the holy Trinity!