



AS WE GATHER

In Psalm 12, King David cries out, “Save, O Lord, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man” (v. 1). The Lord God’s anointed king lives in a troubling world! Many centuries later, Martin Luther paraphrased the words of David, writing in a hymn text in 1523: “O Lord, look down from heav’n, behold and let Thy pity waken; . . . dark times have us o’ertaken” (TLH 260:1). Looking at our world today, we can relate to both King David and Martin Luther. Yet both men expressed hope in their written words. In his psalm, David writes, “The words of the Lord are pure words, . . . You, O Lord, will keep them” (vv. 6a, 7a). And Luther confidently writes, “So through God’s Word shall men endure each trial and temptation” (TLH 260:5). Reformation Day echoes the call to faithfulness heard by God’s people through the ages. May we listen well!

CALL TO WORSHIP Battle Belongs

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG LSB 578 Thy Strong Word

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| <p>1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death, Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> | <p>4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might; From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> |
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 54:1–2*

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

People: **from everlasting to everlasting!**

Pastor: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!

People: **We Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.**

Pastor: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

People: **As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.

People: **Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

Pastor: God has promised His forgiveness of sins to those who repentantly confess their sins, imploring His grace and mercy for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Revelation 14:6–7* (Another angel proclaims an eternal Gospel message.)

⁶ Then 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. ⁷ And 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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE *Romans 3:19–28* (God grants the gift of redemption through 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 stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom 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. ²⁶ It 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. ²⁷ Then 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. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36* (Jesus proclaims that “the truth will set you free.”)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his
might.
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

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SERMON "Re-Formation" *Romans 3:19–28*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

C 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. 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

Jesus You Alone

(Verse 1)

Who is the great King of glory, seated on high in the heavens? Oh, Jesus You alone.
You are the Lord God Almighty, strong in compassion and mercy. Oh, Jesus You alone.

(Pre-Chorus)

I've searched the world, for a love that could fill my heart.
Nothing compares, to the wonder of who You are.

(Chorus 1)

"Holy". All of the earth singing, "Holy".

All of the angels cry, "Holy".

Jesus, You alone. Jesus You alone.

(Verse 2)

You set the stars in the heavens, You set the world into motion.
Oh, Jesus You alone.

You breathed Your life in creation, You walked among Your created.

Oh, Jesus You alone.

(Pre-Chorus)

I've searched the world, For a love that could fill my heart.
Nothing compares, To the wonder of who You are.

(Sing Chorus 1)

(Chorus 2)

"Worthy". All of creation sings, "Worthy".

All of the heavens exalt Thee.

Jesus You alone. Jesus You alone.

(Verse 3)

You shed Your blood for salvation, You broke the curse for our freedom. Oh, Jesus You alone.
You rose from death with the morning, You'll come again in Your glory. Oh, Jesus You alone.

(Sing Chorus 1) , (Sing Chorus 2), (Sing Chorus 3)

"Holy". I cannot help but sing, "Holy".

Oh how my heart cries out, "Holy".

Jesus You alone.

(Chorus 4)

"Worthy". I lift my voice and sing, "worthy".

I bow my life to exalt Thee.

Jesus You alone. Jesus You alone.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We thank You for having called us as Your people who are kept by Your abiding care in this, our contentious world. Grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we join at Your Table, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place in Your eternal kingdom. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS **LSB 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead

In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy! *(continues to next page)*

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
 Life to win for us in heaven.
 No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
 May this feast thereof remind us!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
 That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
 All our debt Thou hast paid;
 Peace with God once more is made:
 O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union
 Nor despise this blest Communion!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
 Days of peace and unity:
 O Lord, have mercy!

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LSB 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
 Turned away God's wrath forever;
 By His bitter grief and woe
 He saved us from the evil foe.

2 As His pledge of love undying,
 He, this precious food supplying,
 Gives His body with the bread,
 And with the wine the blood He shed.

3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;
 Heed then how you are preparing,
 For if you do not believe,
 His judgment then you shall receive.

4 Praise the Father, who from heaven
 To His own this food has given,
 Who, to mend what we have done,
 Gave into death His only Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
 That this food is to be taken
 By the sick who are distressed,
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor
 Were the cost of God's high favor;
 Do not come if you suppose
 You need not Him who died and rose.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
 And receive My grace and favor:
 Those who feel no pain or ill
 Need no physician's help or skill.

8 "For what purpose was My dying
 If not for your justifying?
 And what use this precious food
 If you yourself were pure and good?"

9 If your heart this truth professes
 And your mouth your sin confesses,
 You will be your Savior's guest,
 Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish
 That its fruit of love may flourish
 And your neighbor learn from you
 How much God's wondrous love can do.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Firm Foundation (Based on LSB 728)

(Verse 1)

How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word
What more can He say than to you He has said
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

(Verse 2)

Fear not He is with us, O be not dismayed
for He is our God our Sustainer and Strength
He'll be our Defender and cause us to stand
upheld by His merciful almighty hand

(Chorus)

**How firm our foundation, How sure our salvation
And we will not be shaken, Jesus firm foundation**

(Verse 3)

The soul that is trusting in Jesus as Lord
will press on enduring the darkest of storm
And though even hell should endeavor to shake
He'll never no never no never forsake
He'll never no never no never forsake

(Sing Chorus)

(Bridge)

Age to age He stands faithful to the end
All may fade away, but He will remain
He will remain

(Repeat Bridge), **(Sing Chorus),**

(TAG) Jesus, firm foundation, Jesus, firm foundation!