

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sundays at Salem

~ Sunday School ~ ~ 9:00 am ~

~ Worship ~ ~ 10:00 am ~

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***“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all
members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”***

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4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811
~ OCTOBER 25, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Reformation Sunday

Out of the Reformation emerged the articulation of five essential points of doctrine known as the five solas. The five Latin statements serve as a summary of the core beliefs that separate Protestantism from Roman Catholicism. The five solas state that Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG “A Mighty Fortress” *Hymn #504*

- Vs. 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.
- Vs. 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.
- Vs. 3 Through 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.
- Vs. 4 God's Word forever shall abide, not 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, through life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

P: Many protestants celebrate Reformation Day on October 31st or Reformation Sunday (today) to commemorate the day on which Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to a church door at Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. We owe a great debt to Luther and the other reformers. They stood for the purity of the gospel against church and state armed only with the Word of God.

We are going to remember and celebrate the five great doctrines (solas) today by responding to them with scripture and song as a way to commemorate these heroes of the faith and the freedom that we have to believe these things today. It is fitting to honor these men for we are really honoring God who was their rock, their fortress and their might.

The reformers were not only concerned with doctrine but with reforming worship as well. During the reformation the role of Christ as our sole mediator, services in the language of the people, a simplified and more understandable order of service, the prominent place of expository preaching, and the participation of the people in worship especially through congregational singing were all recovered. These are some of the same values that Salem holds dear in worship. I pray that today's service will be a blessing to you as we give glory to God for what He has done and how He has preserved His truth throughout all generations.

SERMON

Sola Scriptura—Scripture Alone

R: The Holy Scriptures have revealed to us the nature and purposes of God, the work of Christ, the call of the gospel and the way of salvation. The Bible is the sole authority for Christians in faith, doctrine and practice. Sola Scriptura acknowledges that the Bible is the Word of God, without error, and the source of all truth.

Readings 2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that

everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:21

²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Song “Ancient Words”

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,
Come 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)

Oh let the ancient words impart.

Solus Christus—Christ Alone

R: Salvation is found in Christ alone. No human being can forgive sins, it is Christ alone who saves. Salvation has been accomplished solely because of Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins.

Readings John 14:6

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Song “In Christ Alone”

Vs.1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,

firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Vs.2 In Christ alone! who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Vs.3 There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Vs.4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Sola Gratia—Grace Alone

R: God's judgment and condemnation are something that we all deserve because we are sinners. But God Himself, through his son Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues all who believe in Him from His wrath. God brings people to repentance and faith in Christ

because of His goodness and grace. This gift of grace is from God alone and has nothing to do with human merit.

Readings Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:23-24

²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

Song “God of Grace”

- Vs 1 God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free.
Oh, the miracle of mercy Jesus reaches down to me.
God of grace, I stand to wonder, as my God restores my soul.
His own blood has paid my ransom; awesome cost to make me whole.
- Vs 2 God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began.
Sent my Saviour down from Heaven; Perfect God and perfect men.
God of grace, I trust in Jesus, I’m accepted as His own.
Every day new grace sustains me, as I lean on Him alone.
- Vs 3 God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed forgiven and secure.
All my fears are now confounded and my hope is ever sure.
God of grace, now crowned in Glory, where one day I’ll see Your face.
And forever I’ll adore You in Your ever lasting grace.

Sola Fide—Faith Alone

R: The biblical truth that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions in the world. It is not by the believer’s works or efforts, but by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, that a person enters into the blessing of eternal life.

Readings Romans 5:8-9

⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been

justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

Song “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

ELW #597

Vs. 1 My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my
own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

all other ground is sinking sand.

Vs. 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I
rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and
stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**

Vs. 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sus-
tain me in the raging flood; when all supports are
washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

Vs. 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteous-
ness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! **Refrain**

Soli Deo Gloria—To the Glory of God Alone

R: Salvation is wholly a work of God for His glory, believers contribute nothing to their salvation. He created and redeemed us in order to display the glory of His majesty and the wonders of His grace. Because Christ is both Lord and Savior of believers, we are commanded to live our lives to the glory of God.

Readings Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to

him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Song “Praise To the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW #858

Vs. 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Vs. 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Vs. 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend you.

Vs. 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again.

Gladly forever adore him!

GENEROSITY

2CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

8 We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, ² for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor[[a](#)] of partnering in this ministry to the saints, ⁵ and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶ so that we might

urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking[b] among you. ⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you[c]—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.[d]⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love.⁹ For you know the generous act[e] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

SERMON

OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC “YOUR GRACE STILL AMAZES ME”

OFFERING “We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours; we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering, we are an offering.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** APOSTLES’ CREED**

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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 PEOPLE**

L: God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

MEAL

* **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You

To receive the food of Your Holy Word.

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;

Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,

That the light of Christ might be seen today

In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

“Living Hope”

Vs. 1 How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Vs. 2 Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Chorus: Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (repeat chorus)

Vs. 3 Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
declared the grave has no claim on me. **(repeat verse)**
Jesus, Yours is the victory! **Chorus 2x**
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed
us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy,
strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in
fervent love toward one another.

C: Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **BENEDICTION**

* **SENDING SONG “O Church Arise”** *please see insert*

* **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*