

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Wausau, Wisconsin

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

GATHERING

** Please rise in body or spirit where indicated.
Text in **bold type** is to be spoken or sung in unison*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Amy Potter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.
**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Good and gracious God, you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us; you are the hope of the world. Give us strength, that we might serve you; make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*HYMN

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

2 Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

3 Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.

4 Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
that we may dwell in perfect unity.

5 Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;

Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Longing for rescue from the weight of our failures, let us confess our sin to God who hears our pleas and waits in mercy to forgive.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, hope of your people in every age, we confess that we have sinned against you. We have wandered from your pathways, turned toward idols, lived without compassion, and disregarded the well-being of your creation. Do not turn away from us, O Lord, but renew your covenant, for only in you will our lives be healed. Guide us and lead us in your ways, for happy are those who live in your house. Amen.

Please continue in silent reflection and your personal prayer of confession.

SUNG RESPONSE

Change My Heart, O God

695 refrain

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the news is so good we can scarcely believe it: God does not hold our sin against us but pours out abundant grace. Give thanks to God and by the Spirit's power share the gospel far and near: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pour out upon us your Spirit, O God, that we might hear your word so that your wisdom will draw us closer to you. Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 65, OT p. 527

¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, ⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, ⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. ⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

ANTHEM

Savior, Come and Dwell in Me

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Following the music, children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 18:9-14, NT p. 81

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

Great God of Every Blessing

694

1 Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

2 Your Word is our salvation,
the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending
your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body;
each member has a part:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

3 Your Spirit is our teacher,
the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people
into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy,
for wisdom you impart:

sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

LITANY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

The Nicene Creed; The Apostles' Creed, 2.3

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Scots Confession, 3.01

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.

The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.001

We believe that, we belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.029

We believe that, all things are governed by the Providence of God.

The Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.039

We believe that, the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

The Shorter Catechism, 7.001

We believe that, the chief end of humankind is to glorify God,
and to enjoy God forever.

The Larger Catechism, 7.117

We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.26

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

The Confession of 1967, 9.32

We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.

The Confession of Belhar, 10.3

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.5, 11.6

With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With humility for all that God has given us, let us gratefully give for the work of the church and the healing of this world.

OFFERTORY

You are invited to use the time of offering to reflect on how you show your gratitude to God, whether through acts of service or through sharing of resources.

Offering plates are available at the doors to leave a gift before or immediately after the service, or you may give online at www.firstpreswausau.org or through your Realm login.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Doxology

606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and merciful God, you know the joy that is in us when we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions for the work you set before us. Use these gifts to heal and teach, comfort and challenge, that all the world might give you praise. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

275

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. Fischer

Thank you to those who helped us with worship today:

Rev. Rachel A. Wann, senior pastor
Rev. Joy Nelson-Jeffers, pastoral associate
Mike Fischer, music director/pianist
Jann Slayton liturgist
The Chancel Choir
Rick Builer, sound and video
Rick Wicklund, doorkeeper
Bethel Team, hospitality
Mary Anderson and Marcia Glashagel, bulletin assembly

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