

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Sunday of the Reformation (Year A)

On this 500th Anniversary of the nailing of the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, we remember the firestorm created by a young monk named Martin Luther. Focusing on the Word of God in its purity, Luther challenged the Church of his day to return to the Lord and to forsake manmade pieties that only caused believers to doubt their salvation and carry a heavy burden of guilt.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

The Hour of Judgment Has Come

St. John received a vision from God of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with saints and angels surrounding him. An angel flew over his head with a message of eternity for every tribe and nation: "Fear God and give him glory," as the time of judgment was upon the people.

Psalm 46

God, Our Refuge and Strength

God was Israel's help in times of trouble, fully present, creating a fortress around the house of Jacob. Though kingdoms would rise and fall, nothing would keep the Lord of Hosts away from his beloved people.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Through the Law Comes Knowledge of Sin

Paul explained to the Roman Christians that there is no justification that comes through works of the law. It is solely by faith in Christ that all who believe are made right with God. Paul declared that with God there is no distinction, as all have fallen short of His glory. The good news of the Gospel is that his gift of forgiveness comes to all who believe, not through works, but through Christ alone.

Gospel Reading: John 8:31-36

Abide in My Word

Jesus urged the Jews who were following him to remain in his word of truth. This truth would set them free from sin and death. In their self-justification, they denied their bondage to sin and their need for help. Jesus insisted that he, himself, the Son, is the only one with the power to free them.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Red

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- In the Sola Online Store, check out "The Life of Martin Luther Children's Coloring & Storybook." (Item # L-2020)
- Remind worshipers what the Reformation was all about. A timeline that gives a brief history of the major events leading up to October 31, 1517, can be found on SOWeR for use on this Sunday.
- Consider using the Luther monologue as the sermon for today. It can be found on the Reformation Worship page on the 95 theses.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	229	---	657	504	169	169
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	551	---	803	836	36	36
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320	---	733	632	225	225
God's Word is Our Great Heritage	239	---	582	509	70	70
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty	250	---	901	533	46	46
Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake	455	---	688	799	---	---
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Soul, Adorn Yourself (Deck Thyself)	224	---	636	488	81	81

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 Faith
(CCLI# 5469291)
Cornerstone
(CCLI# 6158927)
Blessed Be Your Name
(CCLI# 3798438)
A Mighty Fortress
(CCLI# 5488935)
Thy Word
(CCLI# 14301)

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