

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Since the beginning of time, O Lord, You have spoken to humanity. Through Moses and the prophets You made Your will known among us. When at the last Your time was fulfilled, You miraculously embodied Your Word in the person of Jesus Christ. In spite of all our efforts, human barriers often curtail the teaching and preaching of Your Word, You have always broken through those barriers sending Your chosen servants to restore Your Word. Help us, treasure Your Word. Help us read, hear, and inwardly digest the Holy Scriptures, so that we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THIS IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAILING OF THE 95 THESIS ON THE DOOR OF THE CASTLE CHURCH OF WITTENBERG BY MARTIN LUTHER. On All Hallowed Eve, October 31, 1517, Luther asked the religious leaders of his day to turn back to the Gospel. Today is our celebration of Reformation Day. On this day we give thanks to God for the gifts of the Church given through Martin Luther and the others who willingly put their lives on the line for the sake and the purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Reformation, God called His people back to the pure message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. It is a glorious day in the kingdom of God. We welcome all who have joined together with us to worship our Almighty God in the wonder of His grace, through our faith. In the wonder of the incarnation, the death and Resurrection of Christ we are together as one to praise His Holy name.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Sola Gratia; Sola Fide; Sola Scriptura

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 119:46;) Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22

Psalm 119 was a huge accomplishment. It was written by David and has a section for all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Verse 46 was very real for David. As king he had the opportunity to speak of His faith before other kings. Psalm 34 was written by David when he remembered to trust God in an unconditional manner. Together they give us God's Law as it concerns the cosmos and the Gospel by which we are saved.

COLLECT

The Holy Spirit brings the enlightenment of the Gospel. He brings the knowledge of Jesus Christ to our hearts. We ask to be kept from sin and defended from the enemies of the Gospel so that we have nothing else in our life but the saving wonder of Christ.

FIRST LESSON—Revelation 14:6-7

The Book of The Revelation was written in Apocalyptic language. As such it is much closer to the Old Testament Books than the New Testament. Revelation 14:6-7 was chosen in our most recent cycle of readings to replace the Old Testament on this day because in these verses the first angel preached the everlasting Gospel to all the nations on Earth. The connection to our day is how Luther received his understanding of faith through grace, exclusively through the Word of God (through his reading of the Scripture.) We hear the Angels sing when we read of the birth of Christ. We hear the Angels sing the Gospel when we read that they, "ministered to" Jesus.

GRADUAL—Psalm 48: 1a, 12-14a

Psalm 48 is a worship song written by the sons of Korah. It is a song about Jerusalem, but Jerusalem was a metaphor for Heaven. We sing a song of Heaven, to which God has invited us to walk around, noticing the wonder of the safety we find.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 3:19-28

Romans chapter 3 continues the discussion of Justification. Paul proved that we are far short of being able to declare ourselves worthy of Heaven. He is especially giving voice to our being Justified through faith in Jesus Christ. Justification is one of those theological terms that we don't always clarify. It means that through faith in Jesus we are seen by God the Father, just-as-if, we had fulfilled the whole law and earned Heaven by our works.

GOSPEL—John 8:31-36

First off, it appears that Jesus speaks the words of verse 31 to those who believed in Him and then in 32-36 was speaking to a different group who