

did not believe in His status as Messiah. "Abraham saw" the birth of Christ, "and was glad." (John 8:56) If you have ever tried to give up a bad habit you know how hard it can be. First you have to confront the habit and then you can try to eliminate it from your life. Sin is the ultimate bad habit. To eliminate sin from our life requires that we identify the sin. But beyond that, we need to admit that sin is bad. Luther had almost a reverse issue. He believed that he was hopeless to receive salvation because he was all sin. Once we admit that we are separated from God (sinners) we need to acknowledge that the only way out of our separation is to believe that Jesus died for us, and His satisfaction is enough for our salvation.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ O Father in Heaven, Your Word tells us of Your great Love for us. Shower us with Your Love every day of our lives, and let us respond to You as we serve those around us. Give us compassion for those who have not yet heard of Your great Love. Move us to share our time and treasures as stewards assisting Your kingdom as it grows.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we thank You for the undeserved gift of forgiveness which You have provided for us through Your death and Resurrection. Help us realize that our salvation comes through faith in You and not by our own effort. Strengthen us in our resolve to respond to Your Love for us in our words and actions. Increase our faith in time of need. When our faith produces works, make them works that abound to Your glory, just-so-that Your kingdom continues to grow as it is being filled with those who need to know You.

O Holy Spirit of God, You have given us the gift of faith by grace. Dwell in our hearts as You have promised. Make Your presence known among us by the fruits of faith which You produce. Empower all who serve in the name of the One True God; missionaries, Pastors, teachers and all others, to clearly proclaim the message of salvation, that Your kingdom will grow.

O God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there are those who live within and without Your kingdom who are in sickness, danger, adversity and others who are in need of Your Almighty hand to guide protect and heal. We bring them before You, asking for miracles of understanding, miracles of healing, miracles of deliverance, miracles of protection and guidance.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Into Your hands, O Lord we commend our life and all for whom we pray. We fully trust in the answer You will provide, in the mercy earned by Jesus, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

REFORMATION DAY

Chant Tone



Introit

I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, — [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.
I will bless the Lord at — all times;*
His praise shall continually be | in
my mouth.
My soul makes its boast | in the Lord;*
let the humble hear | and be glad.
Come, O children, lis | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the Lord.

The Lord redeems the life of His
— servants;*
none of those who take refuge in
Him will | be condemned.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

I will speak of Your testimonies before
kings, — [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.

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

Collect of the Day

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.

Gradual

Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised*
in the city | of our God!
Walk about Zion, go around her, number her — towers,*
consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels,
that you may tell the next gener — ation*
that this is God, our God forever and — ever.

(Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a)

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.)

"MARTIN LUTHER NAILED THE 95 THESES ON THE DOOR OF THE WITTENBERG CHURCH IN 1517. He had come a long way as a theologian, but was by no means a radical or revolutionary. He had combined his inner spiritual struggle with an exacting and comprehensive Biblical study to restore the theology of salvation taught by St. Paul. Luther's grasp of the doctrine of justification of sinners through faith in Christ had come through a personal struggle in which the Reformer had sought for a sense of certainty as to his own salvation." (The Reformation Era, CPH) We are allowed to find the truth of God, the truth of our salvation, in the Bible. We live in a wonderful era when the Bible is easy to own and fully accessible for reading. We gather in the wonder of the Word of God to worship Him for the accessibility of His salvation which has been made true for us in Jesus and which we have been allowed to find and understand as we read the Bible.

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