

Soli Deo Gloria

“REFORMATION 500 KICKOFF”
HYMN FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING THE *three solas* OF

THE REFORMATION:
ONLY BY GRACE,
ONLY THROUGH FAITH
ONLY THE WORD

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Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 749 Bluff St., Beloit, WI

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*Presented by Our Savior's, St. Paul, and Atonement Lutheran churches
in conjunction with the Fall Gathering of the South Rock Conference,
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA*

SOLI DEO GLORIA: Reformation 500 Kickoff Hymn Festival

Sunday, November 6 at 4:30 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 749 Bluff St., Beloit, WI 53511

Celebrating on the "Three Solas" of the Reformation:

Grace alone, faith alone, word alone

PRELUDE

"O Lamm Gottes unschuldig," BWV 656
Toccata in F Major, BWV 157

J. S. Bach
Dietrich Buxtehude

Max Yount, organ

HYMN

Soli Deo Gloria

ELW 878

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Setting by Jeremy Bankson

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Women

Stanza 3: Choir

Stanza 4: Men

Stanza 5: All

Tyler Pimm, organ

Cheryl Licary, conductor

Reflection I: Grace

We have our cranberry hymnal, we had our green hymnal, and before that there were the old red hymnals. But what is arguably the most important of all? A little volume from 1524 called the "Achtliederbuch," or "Eight Song Book," published in Wittenberg, Germany that was the first hymnal of the Reformation. It contained one anonymous hymn, four hymns by Martin Luther, and three by Paul Speratus, including "Salvation Unto Us Has Come."

So pure and clear in this hymn is the articulation of the central understanding of the Lutheran Reformation—that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, on the basis of Scripture alone—that critics later on accused it of simply being an example of rhymed doctrine instead of a hymn. But we continue to cherish it today as a powerful proclamation of the cosmic action of God on our behalf.

Writing about a century after Paul Speratus, Johann Franck's "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness" makes explicit the vehicle of God's free grace for us poor sinners: "Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly." In addition to its original musical pairing, Evangelical Lutheran Worship gives us the hymn in an exuberant setting by Puerto Rican composer Evy Lucio Cordova. Its refrain allows us to very nearly shout out our gratitude to God for this free gift of grace: "Be thankful!"

HYMN

Salvation Until Us Has Come

ELW 590

ES IST DAS HEIL

Max Yount, organ

HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 489

CANTO AL BORINQUEN

Stanza 1 will be sung in Spanish and again in English

Zach Peterson, violin

Nancy Raabe, piano

Reflection II: Faith

It is commonly said that, where grace is God's action toward us, faith is our response to God. Yet, this response cannot be thought of as saying "Yes" to God's grace, because faith itself comes from God. In faith, we grasp onto God's gift of grace; but then the way that faith grows throughout our lives is purely a work of God and not of our own. We know from Ephesians 2:8-9 that "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast."

That faith is not our own work is made clear from the very beginning of the early Reformation hymn "Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray." We ask the Spirit "for true faith, most needed on our way"—knowing that we alone cannot accomplish this.

And how is faith born? As we know from Romans 10:17, "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ." This, God's Word, is the "firm foundation" of our next hymn. We sing of our faith founded on promises that Jesus speaks directly to us, quoting Isaiah 41 and 43, in the hymn's 2nd, 3rd and 4th stanzas. Our current hymnal gives us just four of the seven stanzas, but those of you who remember our old red hymnals may miss the quirky original last stanza, in which God vows to save us no matter what:

*The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no never forsake!*

HYMN

Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

ELW 743

NUN BITTEN WIR

Stanza 1: Choir

Stanzas 2-4: All

Tyler Pimm, organ

Cheryl Licary, conductor

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

FOUNDATION

Tyler Pimm, organ

ANTHEM "God is Our Refuge and Strength" Allen Pote
Festival Choir
Cheryl Licary, conductor and piano

OFFERING "Adagio e dolce" from Trio Sonata in D minor J. S. Bach
Tyler Pimm, organ
Gifts will be directed to Caritas Ministries

Reflection III: Scripture

"Wherever Christians have gathered to worship and praise God, they have sung songs," composer Carl Schalk has written, "songs of faith and confidence, songs of contrition and confession, songs of exile and rebirth, songs of sin and salvation. Through 20 centuries of Christian history, words and music joined together have been a vehicle for singing the old song in an ever-new land."

Martin Luther understood the relationship between music and proclamation better than anyone who had come before or, arguably, anyone who has come since. He embraced it with all his heart as an excellent gift of God, given to humanity that we might in turn use it in God's praise and to proclaim the story of salvation. For Luther, to disregard music is to call one's humanity into question. "A person who gives this some thought and yet does not regard it as a marvelous creation of God must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being," he wrote. "He should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs."

If music is God's gift, where does the composer and hymn writer come in? Within this context, composers, hymn writers, congregations, choirs, and instrumentalists are set free to develop their talents and abilities to the highest degree possible, always with Christ at the center. "When in our music God is glorified," Fred Pratt Green writes to the noble tune by Charles V. Stanford, "and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as if the whole creation cried: 'Alleluia!'"

ANTHEM "When In Our Music God is Glorified" Ziegenhals
Stanzas 1-4: Choir
Stanza 5: All
Festival Choir
Tyler Pimm, organ
Cheryl Licary, conductor

HYMN Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ELW 517
ERHALT UNS, HERR
Setting by David N. Johnson

Stanza 1: All
Stanza 2: Choir
Stanza 3: All
Tyler Pimm, organ
Cheryl Licary, conductor

HYMN	Word of God, Come Down on Earth	ELW 510
		LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER
	Zach Peterson, violin	
	Tyler Pimm, organ	

Reflection IV: Luther on Music

“Word of truth, to all truth lead us,” we just sang. There is a bumper sticker that reads “The Bible Says It, I Believe It, That Settles It.” While this may reflect someone’s personal conviction, that is not what “Sola Scriptura” is about. For Luther it was of central importance to get away from what he considered to be theological errors by the Catholic Church that had no basis in scripture, and for people to return to the authority of the Bible. Luther maintained that “a simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it.”

To this end he completed the Herculean task of translating the entire Bible into the vernacular for the first time, so it could be made available to each and every lay person. But Luther also understood the power of music to teach this new evangelical faith, and to that end wrote some three dozen hymns and chants. In the next hymn we pray to remain grounded in God’s Word, especially in the face of those would proclaim *themselves* as savior of the world. And we turn to the “battle cry of the Reformation” to close today’s hymn festival, with both words and music by Luther. Singing together as one body, we will proclaim—even in the face of hordes of devils who fill the land—that “God’s Word forever shall abide.” The kingdom is ours—forever!

HYMN	A Mighty Fortress	ELW 503
		EIN FESTE BURG
		Setting by Nancy Raabe
	Stanzas 1, 2: All	
	Stanza 3: Choir	
	Stanza 4: All	
	Tyler Pimm, organ	
	Cheryl Licary, conductor	

POSTLUDE	Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552 (“Saint Anne”)	J. S. Bach
	Max Yount, organ	

With thanks to:

Organ and piano

Cheryl Licary, Director of Music, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Tyler Pimm, Director of Music, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Nancy Raabe, Pastor, Atonement Lutheran Church

Instrumentalists

Zachary Peterson, violin

Kyle Thompson-Taylor, trumpet

Dave Viemeister, trumpet and horn

Stephanie Erdmann, trombone

Sarah Erdmann, trombone

Ellen Knutson, percussion

Readers

Max Dodson, Council President, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Jean Neitzel, Council, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Nancy Raabe, Pastor, Atonement Lutheran Church

...and to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for producing and printing the bulletins, and for hosting this event.

Soli Deo Gloria!