

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all
 4 God's word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no

sword and shield vic - to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's
 would be lost, re - ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to
 threat - 'ning to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we
 thanks to foes who fear it; for God him - self fights by our

rod and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic
 fight, whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may
 stand; they can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant
 side with weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our

foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 rage; in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 house, goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

Liturgy for Reformation Sunday

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

People: And also with you!

Let us pray together: O God, you are our refuge and our strength

A very present help in times of trouble; we will not fear.

O God, you made an everlasting covenant with us.

Help us to be your people in this world of trial and trouble.

O God, too often we have sinned and have fallen short of your glory.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts; test us and know our thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

O God, we have embraced the freedom you offer us.

We embrace the Son who makes us free.

O God, we honor the bold faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us.

May we each be as bold in our faith this week as we cry "Come, Holy Spirit!", help us to die again and again in Christ so that we might be truly free.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

Minister: Almighty and most merciful God,

All: We confess that we are unworthy servants. We have not always acted as children of God. We confess that we have left undone things we should have done, and we have done and said things that we should not have done and said. For those times when we have sinned against you even unintentionally, we ask your forgiveness. We truly deserve only condemnation. But we pray that you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your obedient and faithful Son, will forgive us and increase our faith, that we may rise to live before you in righteousness and true holiness.

Minister: Jesus Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For his sake, and in his name, I proclaim to you the grace and mercy of God, by which he forgives our sin and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

People: Amen.

All: Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We know God by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God

We thank you for Creation.

Second, he makes himself known to us more openly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for his glory and for the salvation of his own. Let us thank God for the holy Word.

We thank you, God, for your Word. We thank you for the special care this shows you have for us and our salvation.

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ.

Let us thank God for grace.

We thank you, God, for your grace. We thank you that you do not treat us as our sins deserve, that you do not repay us according to our iniquities.

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

Let us thank God for faith.

We thank you, God, for the gift of faith. We thank you for faith that embraces Jesus Christ, with all his merits, and makes him its own, and no longer looks for anything apart from him.

Let us thank God for Jesus Christ, our Chief Elder.

We thank you, God, for Jesus. We thank you that we have in Christ all that we need for our salvation.

Lord, you have heard the people's cries for help.

Cries for bread, cries for shelter, cries for healing, cries for jobs. Cries for meaning and for relationship and hope.

You see the mothers who break down while standing in line at the food pantry over the loss of their dignity.

You hear the anguished prayers of the unemployed father, anxious only to feed and clothe his family.

You see those who have plenty lost in self and the fruitless chase for real worth and significance.

You hear the lies of the world that deceive young and old alike.

In times like these you have always raised up prophets: Moses, in the desert for the captive children.

John Hus, burning at the stake for speaking truth and sharing the cup of grace.

Jeremiah in the midst of Jerusalem's fall.

Martin Luther, when the Word of God was chained.

Amos, crying out against the rich on behalf of the poor.

John Wesley, bringing God's light to the coal miners' social darkness.

Joel, promising God's gift of visions and dreams.

Martin Luther King Jr., dreaming dreams and speaking truth.

In times like these you have always raised up prophets.

Lord do it again. Speak to us with the prophetic Word.

Hear our cry, our hunger, our desire for life, our desire for meaning.

Hear us, O God, send your Word. Let the voice of God once more be heard in the land.

AMEN.

This liturgy has been adapted from responsive readings created specifically for Reformation Sunday by the Rev. Adrian Dieleman, Senior Pastor at Trinity United Reformed Church in Visalia, California and the Rev. Nathan Decker, pastor of the South Sussex Charge of the Petersburg District of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our thanks to Pastors Dieleman and Decker for their creative work, which was edited by the Rev. John Jackman, pastor of Trinity Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC

then, with Je - sus Christ u - nit - ed, we should heav'n an - tic - i - pate.
how our spir - it, soul and bod - y do in God our Sav - ior joy.

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire 590

1 Though I may speak ___ with brav - est fire, ___ and have the
2 Though I may give ___ all I pos - sess, ___ and striv - ing
3 Come, Spir - it, come, ___ our hearts con - trol, ___ our spir - its

gift ___ to all in - spire, ___ and have not love: ___
so ___ my love pro - fess, ___ but not be giv'n ___
long ___ to be made whole. ___ Let in - ward love ___

___ my words are vain ___ as sound - ing brass, ___ and hope - less gain.
___ by love with - in, ___ the prof - it soon ___ turns strange - ly thin.
___ guide ev - 'ry deed; ___ by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

TEXT: Hal Hopson (1972)

TUNE: Hal Hopson (1971); based on traditional English melody

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L.M.

GIFT OF LOVE

Built on the Rock

1 Built on the Rock, the church shall stand e - ven when
 2 Not in a tem - ple made with hands God the Al -
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his
 4 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when

stee - ples are fall - ing; Christ builds his church in
 might - y is dwell - ing; high in the heav'ns his
 own hab - i - ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his
 church bells are ring - ing, man - y may come to

ev - 'ry land; bells still are chim - ing and call - ing,
 tem - ple stands, all earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel - ling.
 hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us life and sal - va - tion.
 hear God's word where he this prom - ise is bring - ing:

call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the souls of
 Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove choos - es to live with
 Yet to this place, an earth - ly frame, we come with thanks to
 "I know my own, my own know me, you, not the world, my

those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 praise his name; God grants his peo - ple true bless - ing.
 face shall see; my peace I leave with you." A - men.

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord 513

1 I love your king - dom, Lord, the place of your a - bode,
 2 I love your church, O God! Her walls be - fore you stand,
 3 For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as - cend;
 4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heav'n - ly ways,

the church our blessed Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 dear as the ap - ple of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.
 to her my cares and toils be giv'n, till toils and cares shall end.
 her sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

5 Sure as your truth shall last,
 to Zion shall be given
 the brightest glories earth can yield
 and brighter bliss of heaven.

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS Jeannine Allen Lee Bridgers "Corky" Carmichael Addie Carter Jan Clodfelter Jack Clowers Family of Becky Fisher Sam Fort Family of Nancy Foster Christie Hall Derek Hutchens Mary Ann Little Eddie Moore Shirley Morgan Lou Parrish Teresa Philly Jane Reich Family of Ian Simmons Fred Walser Linda Walser Jennifer Williams Vickie Williams	FRIENDS Bill Allen Dorothy Beaman Dawn Catlett Debbie Cohn Carol Earnhardt Jeff Harvey Kandy Jacks Scarlett Linville Jerry Locklair Willa Koontz David McElveen Tammy Mooney Skip Morris Nellie Simpson Roland Spainhour Family of Meg Vogler Brenda Ward Wayne Ward Cameron Williams Family of Mitzie Reavis MILITARY SERVICE CPO Michael R. Williams
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Watchword for the Week: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. - Leviticus 19:2

WATCH YOUR MAIL THIS WEEK! We will be publishing a full print newsletter soon that will outline our plans for the rest of the year – how we will handle requirements such as Church Council, and our plans for Christmas. Be sure not to toss it with all the political mailings.

FOOD COLLECTION/RICE BAGGING FOR SUNNYSIDE – the demand for assistance at Sunnyside is up significantly, but resources are not. We will soon be scheduling regular “rice bagging” sessions and food collection times. Watch for the announcement of scheduling!