

Lessons for Reformation Day

October 31

Psalm 46 ~ *We fear no terror nor disaster, protected by the refuge of God's love in Christ.*

Revelation 14:6-7 ~ *God sent a messenger to proclaim the eternal gospel.*

Romans 3:19-28 ~ *God's law uncovers our sin; His grace proclaims our justification.*

John 8:31-36 ~ *God's Son sets us free indeed, from sin and death!*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: The Gift of God's Grace

God's grace is our refuge and fortress. We are not able to do anything to get into God's good graces; he has brought us there! In Jesus, God has given us a new way to be brought to justice. Our sentence is carried out through the blood of God's own Son, and we are set free from condemnation. In the new covenant of Jesus' blood, God forgives our sins and promises us eternal life as heirs of his kingdom!

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Gracious God in heaven above, through Christ you came to me in love; help me always know your grace and in it see your loving face. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: God showers us with His richest blessings for this life and for eternity, even though we have done nothing to earn or deserve them. He has put them into our care so that we may share them with others who need to know God's great mercy in life and His love in Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER: Our life, our love, and wealth, O Lord,
We dedicate to You.
Sanctify us for Your work
In all we say and do. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: We want life to be fair, but we have a way of interpreting life's circumstances so that we do not see our own failings and even deny our slavery to sin. The law of God holds us to account for all our sins. Suddenly we realize it is not justice that we need, but mercy. God, by His grace, has meted out justice on our sin and at the same time, has given us His own righteousness, through Jesus Christ His Son! Thanks be to God!

Questions to Consider:

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Bonus on Next Page: Where Luther Stood

Where Luther Stood

(from the Castle Church, Wittenberg)

Through this doorway Luther walked,
and on these very stones he stepped!
This is where he sang and talked,
and here's his tomb where Katie wept.

From this pulpit Luther preached:
"God's Word alone reveals His will."
To our day this truth has reached,
and in these halls it echoes still.

Luther learned these truths from Paul:
"In Christ alone God's love is known."
"All who hear the Gospel call
Receive God's gifts through faith alone."

Here was Luther bold to say
"By grace alone God counts us good."
Why is it so hard today
To take a stand where Luther stood?

– Gilbert A. Franke, Aug 2008