

**Strength  
FOR TODAY**  
---- AND ----  
*Bright Hope*  
**FOR TOMORROW**



Reformation Sunday  
October 25, 2020  
8:30am

# Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

Our four-week sermon series is entitled, “Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow.” This is our stewardship theme for 2021. Our inspiration comes from the hymn, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” In the midst of COVID-19 and a highly partisan election process, we long to hear that God is faithful even when we are not, and God promises to walk with us – and all people – every step of the journey.

Our turbulent times continue, with a good deal of uncertainty about tomorrow. As we observe a season of stewardship, we pause to name God’s blessings and to consider how we might respond in gratitude. In this week’s sermon, we’ll focus on Martin Luther and the uncertain times in which he lived. Luther couldn’t see what was coming any better than we can, but he stepped out in faith, trusting that God would be “a mighty fortress” every step of the way.

PRELUDE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD  
KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

EIN FESTE BURG,  
ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

**A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**

**No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God’s only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**

**God’s Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom’s ours forever!**

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God, our refuge and strength,

**C: You promise to be with us in every time of trouble. We need this promise now more than ever. With a world turned upside down, we're trying not to be afraid. Help us to be still, and to know that you are God, and are always faithful. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE

A VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM BY THE ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR

MUSIC: DAVID THORNE

TEXT: 7<sup>TH</sup> OR 8<sup>TH</sup> CENT. LATIN,  
TR. JOHN CHANDLER AND PSALM 118:22

**Christ is our Cornerstone, on him alone we build.  
The stone which the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone.  
Alleluia!**

BIBLE READING

PSALM 46 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. <sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

<sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

STORYTIME

BIBLE MILESTONES

SERMON

GREAT IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

HYMN

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain* **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## VIDEO

"ENHANCING OUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT"

DENNIS AND MARY DAHLEN

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL

SARA GROVES

EMILY SCHMIDT, SOLOIST

Morning by morning I wake up to find the power and comfort of God's hand in mine.  
Season by season I watch Him amazed, in awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.

*Refrain* All I have need of His hand will provide. He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain He did not recycle to bring me again.  
I can't remember one single regret in serving God only and trusting His hand. *Refrain*

This is my anthem, this is my song, the theme of the stories I've heard for so long.  
God has been faithful, He will be again. His loving compassion, it knows no end. *Refrain*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*After each petition the congregation responds:*

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust them to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever Amen.**

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

first time through **L:**  
second time through **C:**

O God, You have called us to ventures where we can not see the  
end, By paths ne-ver yet tak en, Through per ils un known.  
Give us good cour-age Not know ing where we go, To  
know that your hand is lead-ing us Wher ev er we might go.  
A - - - - men.

**L:** Creator God, source of wisdom and wonder, wrap us in your blanket of love, and give us the strength and courage to carry on with our journey. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

**The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us,  
may see you face to face.**

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

**C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS  
KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

WILBUR HELD

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Tom Erickson and Margaret Christner on their wedding at Zumbro Lutheran Church on October 17.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING:**

Gary Doherty    Liam Kiefer    Joyce McFadden    Ron Post

**SYMPATHY TO:**

Dolores Badger on the death of her brother, Don Backstrom.

Gladys Duncomb on the death of her brother, Floyd Tapp.

Tess Johnson on the death of her husband, Curtis.

Gloria (Ron) Bonnicksen on the death of her sister, Carol Anderson.

Ruth (Glenn) Monson on the death of her mother, Lela Kabele.

Shirley (Duane) Miedtke on the death of her brother, Jim Muenchow.

Tammy (Tom) Westby on the death of her sister, Pam Tischer.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham, Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner;  
**LECTOR**-Megan Thorvilson; **PIANO and ORGAN**-Kristy Giere; **SONGLEADERS**-Janette Reeves and Emily Schmidt; **SINGING**-  
Zumbro Lutheran Choir; Bob Giere director; **SOLOIST**-Emily Schmidt

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