

**A Commemoration of the Presentation
of the Augsburg Confession**

June 25, 1530



Gloria Dei Ev. Lutheran Church

5005 McCandlish Rd. Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

June 25, 2017

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome! It is the prayer that God would pour out his Spirit to deepen our knowledge of his grace, strengthen our faith in his Word, and increase our zeal for his mission. In this celebratory year of 2017, we as heirs to the Lutheran Reformation treasure once again the foundational truth of salvation by God's pure grace alone and prepare to proclaim the message of Christ alone to our world.

Service Explanation

Not only is 2017 the worldwide quincentenary (500th) celebration of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses at the Castle Church in Wittenberg and the onset of the Protestant Reformation, but the yearly commemoration of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession on June 25, 1530.

As the ramifications of the Diet of Worms spread throughout the Holy Roman Empire, it became increasingly tenuous for individual German princes who desired to introduce the Lutheran Reformation into their territory. At the same time, as Lutheranism spread across the empire, it was increasing difficult for Rome to consistently enforce the Edict of Worms that banned Luther and his teaching. Thus during the 1520s a number of imperial diets were convened in an attempt to resolve the Lutheran question. The decision of the 1526 First Diet of Speyer was favorable to the Lutheran cause: each territory was free to carry out its affairs according to their own conscience. However, Charles V clarified that ambiguity in the 1529 Second Diet of Speyer and reinforced the implications of the Edict of Worms until a general council could be convened. To this the German princes gave a formal *protestatio*, which gave rise to the name "Protestant."

With Luther staying at the Coburg Castle in the extreme south of protected Saxon territory, so as to be as close as possible to the general council without endangering his life, the Lutheran delegation proceeded to Augsburg on April 23, 1530, at the invitation of the emperor. His intention was that the diet would consider "with love and kindness the opinions and views of everybody, in order to reduce them to one single Christian truth and agreement." Based on the Torgau Articles commissioned by Elector John of Saxony, the Augsburg Confession was largely the work of Phillip Melanchthon but subscribed by nine lay German princes. As an official document of the empire, another church was recognized for the first time. Written in a different style than some of Luther's later writings, Melanchthon's rhetorical skills are evident: in hopes of still reforming the church and lovingly winning others over to the truth of Scripture, the tone is a clear, direct, and tactful presentation of the gospel centered in Jesus Christ alone.

Portions of this service was used at this year's Michigan District Convention. We thank the Michigan District Commission on Worship for putting together this order of worship.

Commemoration of the Augsburg Confession

United to Profess



Though Luther's 95 Theses sparked a dialogue thirteen years earlier, the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession commonly marks the birthday of the Lutheran Church. With its clear and simple presentation of the unconditional gospel of grace through faith, princes came together to profess a common faith. As their heirs, we too join together, no matter how different our individual ministries may be, to celebrate the unity of our faith and rededicate ourselves to professing it clearly to the world.

OPENING HYMN 201

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Written by Martin Luther in 1529, this Battle Hymn of the Reformation, was probably written for the Diet of Spires which convened on April 20, 1529, when the German princes made their formal "protest" against the revocation of their liberties.

Please stand for the final stanza.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE

M: It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God. (AC II 1)

C: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. (Psalm 51:5, Psalm 14:3)

M: It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. (AC IV 1-2)

C: But now a righteousness of God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:21-24)

The opening hymn brings people together for worship, sets the tone for the service, and introduces the theme for the day.

The words of the invocation remind us of the words spoken at our baptism.

In the words spoken by the minister, Chancellor Christian Beyer presents the German text of the opening articles of the Augsburg Confession to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V so loudly that they are heard outside. Congregational responses show its teaching is derived from Scripture.

- M:** To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel. (AC V 1-2)
- C:** **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)**
- M:** It is also taught that such faith should yield good fruit and good works and that a person must do such works as God has commanded for God's sake but not place trust in them as if thereby to earn grace before God. (AC VI 1)
- C:** **I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (John 15:5, Ephesians 2:10)**
- M:** It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel. For this is enough for the true unity of the Christian church that there the gospel is preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding and the sacraments are administered in conformity with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that uniform ceremonies, instituted by human beings, be observed everywhere. (AC VII 1-3)
- C:** **There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)**

SONG OF PRAISE

774 Church of God, Elect and Glorious



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious,
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple,
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly,



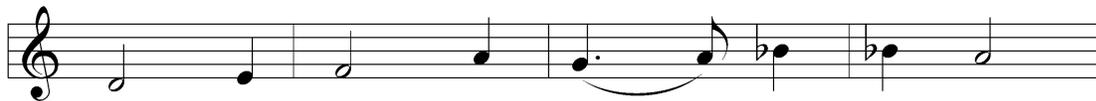
Ho - ly na - tion, cho - sen race;
 In - to his most mar - v'lous light,
 Stran - gers to God's heart of love;
 Be - the peo - ple he in - tends;



Called as God's own spe - cial peo - ple,
 Brought his truth to life with - in you,
 But he brought you home in mer - cy,
 Strong in faith and swift to an - swer



Roy - al priests and heirs of grace:
 Turned your blind - ness in - to sight.
 Cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Each com - mand your mas - ter sends:



Know the pur - pose of your call - ing.
 Let your light so shine a - round you
 Let his love flow out to oth - ers;
 Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all his might - y deeds;
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care;
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer;



Tell of love that knows no lim - its,
 And all find fresh hope and pur - pose
 That they too may know his wel - come
 Give your lives in joy - ful ser - vice—



Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 And his count - less bless - ings share.
 Sing his praise, his love de - clare.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

In this short prayer based on today's theme, we ask the Lord to give the blessings offered in Word of God proclaimed in the lessons.

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:6-11

The proclamation of God's Word will never come back empty but accomplish God's purposes.

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Hold on to the good confession until Christ comes again.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

(Hebrews 2:12)

ALLELUIA RESPONSE *(sung)*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL OF THE DAY

Matthew 10:26-33

Do not be afraid to acknowledge Christ before others.

After the Gospel:

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY 390

Salvation unto Us Has Come

Known as the true confessional hymn of the Reformation, Martin Luther shed tears when he heard this hymn sung in Wittenberg.

We stand & say "Thanks be to God!" to honor Jesus' words & works found in the Gospel, which serves as the highpoint of the entire service. The psalm, lessons, & sermon further explain the theme & focus found in the Gospel of the Day.

Also known as "the teaching hymn," the Hymn of the Day is chosen for its deep content and its connection to the Gospel of the Day.

It is one of the oldest Lutheran hymns with a clear emphasis on salvation by grace.

SERMON: Matthew 10:26-33

FEAR GOD & BE FEARLESS

Stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Augsburg Confession

Selections from Articles 1 & 3

- M:** In the first place, it is with one accord taught and held, following the decree of the Council of Nicea, that there is one divine essence which is named God and truly is God. But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness, the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.**
- M:** Likewise, it is taught that God the Son became a human being, born of the pure Virgin Mary, and that the two natures, the divine and the human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ.
- C:** **He is true God and true human being who truly “was born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried” in order both to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to conciliate God’s wrath.**
- M:** Moreover, the same Christ “descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God” in order to rule and reign forever over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit he may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, also distribute to them life and various gifts and benefits, and shield and protect them against the devil and sin.
- C:** **Finally, the same Lord Christ “will come” in full view of all “to judge the living and the dead ...,” according to the Apostles’ Creed.**

Be Seated

OFFERING GATHERED - *Please fill out the Friendship Register at this time*
Our members give their offerings to the Lord out of thanks and praise.
These offerings are used both locally and by our missions around the world.
Our Guests may but are not expected to give.

WELS CONNECTION – A Return to Grace: Luther’s Life & Legacy

We respond to the Word of God we just heard confessing our faith in it.

In the first & third articles, the confessor demonstrate that the Augsburg Confession is a deviation from the three ecumenical creeds of the church.

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Stand

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: **We remember before you this day...**

M: That great cloud of witnesses whose living trust in you, recorded in your Word, becomes an example for us to imitate and follow.

C: **Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.**

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: **We remember before you this day...**

M: The reformers and confessors who faced the terror of church and empire but stood firm in your truth because they were moved by grace, empowered by faith, and guided by Scripture.

C: **Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.**

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: **We remember before you this day...**

M: Your faithful followers of every age, among them our own mothers and fathers, pastors and teachers, called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be your Church and by whose faithful witness the gospel of your grace has reached at last to us.

C: **Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.**

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: **We remember before you this day...**

M: The early and present leaders of our synod, the teachers who trained our grandfathers and those who now teach us, the missionaries who once went to lands uncharted and unmapped, and those who now walk among teeming millions in over-crowded cities.

C: **Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.**

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: **We remember before you this day...**

M: Our own loved ones whose memories still burn within our hearts, whom you have called in your good time from their labors in life to that life which knows no end.

C: **Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord,**

M: To carry on their work in this our day, trusting your Son, holding to your Word, confessing your truth, loving the lost, reaching out with your love, until you call us, too, by your great grace in Jesus Christ, to join them where memories are swallowed up by everlasting joy.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN 538

The Church's One Foundation

Despite the attacks on the church, it stands firm because it is built on Jesus Christ, who will be with us until the end.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

To you alone, be praise, honor, and glory.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 293

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

This is the fifth stanza of Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig's Danish version of Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress" It was used on festival occasions and as a closing hymn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The oldest part of the service, this blessing of Aaron has been spoken to God's people for 3500 years.

"So they will put my name on the people, and I will bless them."
Numbers 6:27



