



Truth > Freedom

THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

October 26, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A Quiet Room for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: Cause>Effect *in God's Kingdom*

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

Today's Worship: Truth > Freedom

Many people believe that freedom means being able to do whatever you want. Jesus teaches that is absolutely false. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31–32). Jesus says that living however you want does not make you free. In fact, if you take that attitude toward life you will end up a slave. You will only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—“If you hold to my teaching” and therefore “know the truth.” Truth is the cause that effects freedom.

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of the truth that provides freedom? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God's truth brings freedom from slavery to sinful delusions and the burden of guilt. This week we celebrate this cause and effect—the truth sets us free!

Service of Morning Praise

Our Path for Worship

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace

Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.

Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

Better than life is your love.

Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

Praise be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

Let us worship Him.



OPENING HYMN

CW877 | Reformation Song

...this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself,

“The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him.”

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him... Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men
Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Let us give glory to God, our light and our life.

Let us worship Him.

COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Venite

After a short introduction, the Congregation sings:

The musical notation is written on two staves in G-clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

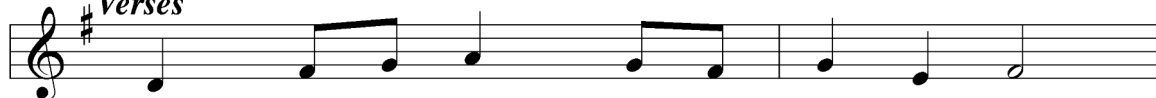
Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



Repeat for use with canon



Verses



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The truth of God's grace transforms our hearts so we freely and gladly follow God's will

³¹“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.

³³“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Jesus Loves Me

After the song, the children say:

“Here is my Bible; I open it wide. I learn about Jesus from the words inside.”

SECOND READING

Galatians 5:1-6

St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by Victory Preschool and Sunday School Children



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

John 8:31–36

The truth of the gospel sets us free

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

10:30 Service

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY

CW863 | *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Pastor Dan Wagenknecht

God Gave Us the Truth that Sets Us Free!

John 8:31–36

ANTHEM

Children of God
by Mac Powell, Tai Anderson, David Carr, and Mark Lee
arr. Stan Pethel

THANK OFFERING

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.
Lord, have mercy.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW824 vs. 1-2, 4-5 | This Is the Threefold Truth



Serving in Worship

Guest Preacher
Guest Presentation Leader
Presiding Pastor
Accompanist

Rev. Daniel Wagenknecht
Mr. Mark Arnold
Rev. Jonathan Kolander
Mrs. Anne Grotefend

Acknowledgments

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Pastor Daniel Wagenknecht serves as a Current Counselor for the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving. He and his wife, DeLyn live in Apopka, FL. Born in Alabama and raised in Texas, and graduating from the WELS Seminary in 1994. While serving a church in California, he was Chairman of the District Mission Board. In 2019 he began serving in his current role.

Mr. Mark Arnold serves as a Deferred Counselor for the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Leesburg, FL. He began serving in this role for our District in 2017. Before this he worked nearly 30 years in the finance and insurance industry. Between our Services, Mr. Arnold will be leading a discussion about the work we do in WELS, celebrating 175 years of God's grace.

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: How did people in OT times hear the Gospel? How can people hear about the Gospel today? What is the treasure truth of the Gospel people need to hear and believe? Read Galatians 1.
- 2nd: Why did Christ come into this world? What is the burden associated with a salvation by works? What are you doing to 'stand firm'? The role of good works as indicated here is what? Read Revelation 2 & 3.
- 3rd: What teachings are we to hold on to and why is this important to do? What is true freedom (explain it like you are talking to someone for the first time about this)? Read Ephesians 2.



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

