

Confession

Absolution

on All Saints' Eve



Siebert Chapel
Wednesday, June 14, 2017
8:00 p.m.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Worship Focus

It just happened to be a Wednesday evening in the year 1517. The following day was All Saints' Day, a day on which many of the Wittenberg faithful would go to worship. And so Dr. Martin Luther chose that Wednesday evening, October 31, 1517, to post his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church. In so doing, he set in motion a series of history-altering events that we now know as the Lutheran Reformation.

It is important for today's Lutherans to realize that Luther's theology was not fully developed on that Wednesday evening in 1517. Luther's "tower experience" – and with it a fuller understanding of justification by grace through faith – would not come until 1519. And yet, the 95 Theses express the convictions of a man who had spent many years futilely searching for peace and had finally begun to find it. Dr. Siegbert Becker called the 95 Theses "a triumph of the gospel...rooted in Luther's conviction that in the Scriptures we have the very words of God and that its promises are the promises of God, who cannot lie and whose word cannot err."

Tonight's service focuses on the core truths Luther expressed in his theses: Peace is found in Christ, and Christ is delivered to us through confession and absolution. Several of the theses that state these themes most clearly are read at appropriate places in the service.

Psalm-Based Hymnody

Much of Reformation-era hymnody was based on the divinely-inspired hymns in the book of Psalms. The most famous example is Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," which may be based on Psalm 46. Tonight's service includes three of these psalm-based hymns. All three date back to 1524, the year the first Lutheran hymnals were published.

The Tune HERR WIE DU WILLST

All three of the psalm-based hymns are sung to the tune HERR WIE DU WILLST. Many worshipers will recognize the tune from the two hymns with which it was used in *The Lutheran Hymnal*. In the earliest Lutheran hymnals, it was very common for a single tune to be used with multiple texts. In one of the Lutheran hymnals published in 1524 there were eight texts but just five tunes.

HERR WIE DU WILLST first appeared in print in a Lutheran agenda published in Strasburg in 1525. In that resource, the tune was paired with one of the psalm-based hymns we sing this evening, Luther's Psalm 130 paraphrase, "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You."

"In the Midst of Earthly Life"

The medieval Latin antiphon, "Media vita in morte sumus" (*In the midst of life we are in death*) is thought to have been written by Swiss monk Notker Balbulus (died c. 910) after watching in horror as a laborer suddenly fell to his death while working on a bridge in the Alps. This Martin Luther hymn traces its roots to that Latin antiphon and was first published in 1524. Since that time, it has served as a source of comfort for the dying and for those who grieve over the departed.

Conference Commissions

Choral settings of HERR WIE DU WILLST by Phillip Magness.

New translation of "Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein" by Michael D. Schultz.

CHULA VISTA, a new tune composed for "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart," by Ian M. Welch.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Lloyd Larson
Lorenz 70/1288L

It Is Well with My Soul

Wayne Oquin
CPH 97-7205

Prelude and Fugue in C#minor (BWV 849)

Johann Sebastian Bach
G. Henle Verlag HL.51481014

A Service of Confession and Absolution
commemorating Dr. Martin Luther's Posting of the 95 Theses
October 31, 1517

Silence for reflection.

OPENING SENTENCES

Prayer at the Close of Day II
Christian Worship Occasional Services

Remain seated.



M: The Lord Al-might-y grant us a qui-et night and peace



at the last. **C:** A - men. **M:** It is good to give



thanks to the Lord, **C:** to sing praise to your name, O Most High,



M: to her-ald your love in the morn-ing, **C:** your truth at the



close of day. **M:** Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you

come in - to your king - dom. **C: Je - sus, re - mem - ber me**

when you come in - to your king - dom.

HYMN

We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

Martin Luther, 1524

NUN BITTEN WIR

Choral setting by Johann Staden, 2007

GIA G-6853

The choir sings stanza 2.

1 We now im - plore God the Ho - ly Ghost
 2 Shine in our hearts, O most pre - cious Light,
 3 O high - est Com - fort in ev - 'ry need,

for the true faith which we need the most,
 that we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,
 grant that nei - ther shame nor death we heed

that in our last mo - ments he may be - friend us
 cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,
 that e'en then our cour - age may nev - er fail us

and, as home - ward we jour - ney, at - tend us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 who a - gain to our home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 when the foe shall ac - cuse and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

M: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

M: Almighty God, heavenly Father,

C: **we have sinned against you**
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.

M: Jesus says to his people, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

M: Let it be done for you as you believe.

At the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Peace be with you.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 12

*In spite of the prevalence of false preaching,
the Lord preserves his people through his true and holy Word.*

Sing the psalm responsively with the minister.



Help, LORD, for no one is faithful | anymore;
those who are loyal have vanished from the | human race.

Everyone lies to their | neighbor;
they flatter with their lips but harbor deception | in their hearts.

May the LORD silence all flat- | tering lips
and every | boastful tongue—

those who say, “By our tongues we | will prevail;
our own lips will defend us—who is lord | over us?”

“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” | says the LORD.
“I will protect them from those who ma- | lign them.”

And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a | crucible,
like gold refined | seven times.

You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the | wicked,
who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the | human race.

Silence for reflection.

Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers (Thesis 32).

It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security (Thesis 52).

Away, then, with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, “Peace, peace, and there is no peace!” (Thesis 92)

M: O God of justice and truth, chaos often clouds the day and fears command the night. Remind us always of your promise to guard and protect your people, and of your perfect, holy love revealed to us in your Son; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN

O Lord, Take Pity Once You've Seen

Martin Luther, 1524

Translation by Michael D. Schultz

HERR WIE DU WILLST

Choral and instrumental settings by Phillip Magness, 2017

The choir sings stanza 2.



1 O Lord, take pit - y once you've seen what's leav - ing
2 There - fore God says: "I won't de - lay! My peo - ple's
3 Dear Lord, the god - less gath - er 'round the guides whose



us so shak - en: Your saints are few and far be - tween -
hopes are wan - ing. Their sighs dis - close their great dis - may;
teach - ings suit them. With - in your Church let there be found



we feel we've been for - sak - en. So man - y call
I've heard their sad com - plain - ing. My heal - ing Word
the cour - age to re - fute them. Pre - serve your Word



your Word un - true, re - fus - ing to be - lieve in you;
will work as planned, will bring re - lief, will make them stand,
and keep it pure, and thus we shall re - main se - cure



they have us far out - num - bered.
will strength - en and up - hold them."
from e - vils that sur - round us!

Sing the psalm responsively with the minister.



If the LORD had not been on our side—let | Israel say—
if the Lord had not been on our side when people at- | tacked us,
 they would have swallowed | us alive
when their anger flared a- | gainst us;
 the flood would have en- | gulfed us,
the torrent would have swept | over us,
 the raging | waters
would have swept | us away.
 Praise be | to the LORD,
who has not let us be torn | by their teeth.
 We have escaped | like a bird
from the | fowler's snare;
 the snare has been | broken,
and we | have escaped.
 Our help is in the name | of the LORD,
the Maker of heav- | en and earth.

Silence for reflection.

Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell (Thesis 94).

And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Thesis 95).

M: Praise belongs to you, Lord God, because you have so mightily preserved your Church against her enemies, both visible and invisible, that the very gates of hell could not prevail against her. Defend us against all evil, and preserve us and our children in the true and saving faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**



*Martin Luther, 1524**HERR WIE DU WILLST**Choral and instrumental settings by Phillip Magness, 2017***The choir sings stanza 2.**

1 If God had not been on our side and had not
 2 Their fu - rious wrath, did God per - mit, would sure - ly
 3 Blest be the Lord, who foiled their threat that they could



come to aid us, our foes with all their pow'r and pride
 have con - sumed us and as a deep and yawning pit
 not de - vour us. Our souls, like birds, es - caped their net;



would sure - ly have dis - mayed us, for we, his flock,
 with life and limb en - tombed us. A hell - ish storm
 they could not o - ver - pow'r us. The snare is bro -



would have to fear the dev - il's wolves, both far and near,
 would o'er us roll from Sa - tan, who de - sires our soul
 ken— we are free! Our help - er and our strength is he



who rise in might a - gainst us.
 and seeks to o - ver - whelm us.
 who made the earth and heav - ens.

PSALM 130

*Repentance brings forgiveness and leads to peace.***Sing the psalm responsively with the minister.**

Out of the depths I cry to | you, LORD;

Lord, | hear my voice.

Let your ears be at - | tentive

to my cry for | mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a re - | cord of sins,

Lord, | who could stand?

But with you there is for - | giveness,

so that we can, with reverence, | serve you.

I wait for the LORD, my whole | being waits,
and in his word I | put my hope.

I wait | for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the | morning,

Israel, put your hope | in the LORD,
for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full re- | demption.

He himself will redeem | Israel
from | all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,
and to the Holy | Spirit,
As it was in the be- | ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters (Thesis 36).

Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters (Thesis 37).

M: God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

Martin Luther, 1524

HERR WIE DU WILLST

Choral and instrumental settings by Phillip Magness, 2017

The choir sings stanza 2.



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
2 There - fore my hope is in the Lord and not in
3 Though great our sins, yet great - er still is God's a -

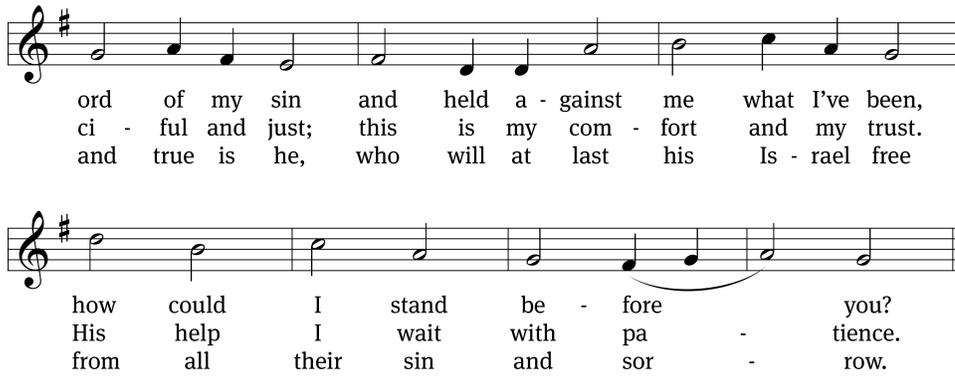


I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
my own mer - it; it rests up - on his faith - ful Word
bun - dant fa - vor; his hand of mer - cy nev - er will



my prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept rec -
to them of con - trite spir - it that he is mer -
a - ban - don us, nor wa - ver. Our shep - herd good

Hymn continues on next page.



ord of my sin and held a - gainst me what I've been,
 ci - ful and just; this is my com - fort and my trust.
 and true is he, who will at last his Is - rael free

how could I stand be - fore you?
 His help I wait with pa - tience.
 from all their sin and sor - row.

READING

Matthew 4:12-17

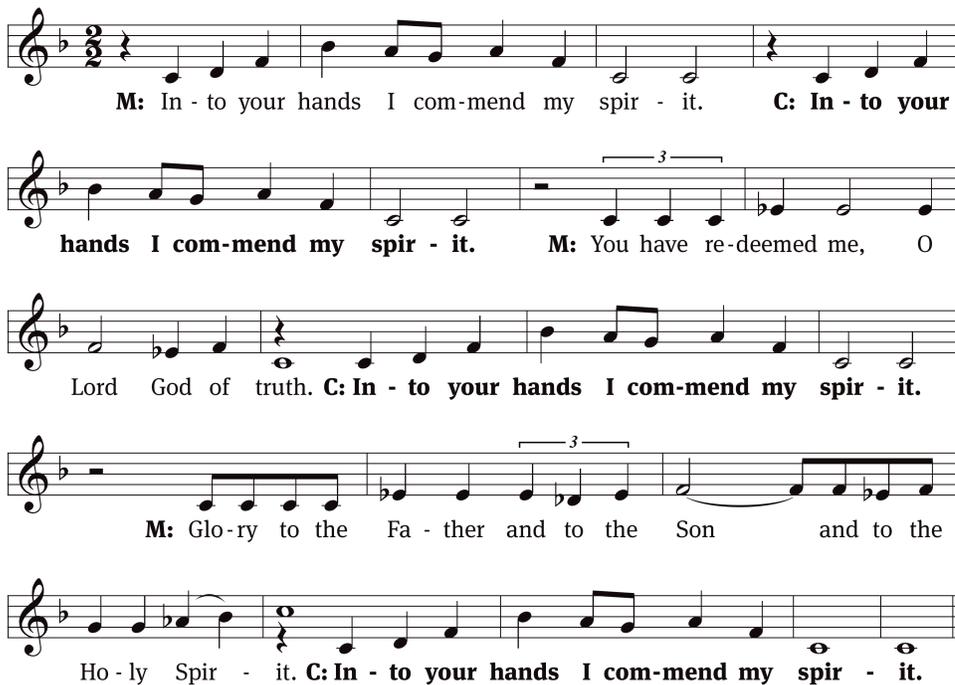
Jesus pierces the darkness of sin and unbelief with the light of the gospel.

Following the Reading:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance (Thesis 1).



M: In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. **C:** In - to your
 hands I com-mend my spir - it. **M:** You have re-deemed me, O
 Lord God of truth. **C:** In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.
M: Glo-ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the
 Ho - ly Spir - it. **C:** In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.

*Martin Luther, 1524**MITTEN WIR IM LEBEN SIND**Choral setting by Michael Praetorius**The choir sings stanza 2 with the congregation joining on bold text.*

1 In the midst of earth - ly life snares of death sur - round us.
 2 In the midst of death's dark vale pow'rs of hell o'er - take us.
 3 In the midst of ut - ter woe when our sins op - press us,



Who shall help us in the strife lest the foe con - found us?
 Who will help when they as - sail, who se - cure will make us?
 where shall we for ref - uge go, where for grace to bless us?



You on - ly, Lord, you on - ly! We mourn that we have great - ly
You on - ly, Lord, you on - ly! Your heart is moved with ten - der -
 To you, Lord Je - sus, on - ly! Your pre - cious blood was shed to



erred, that our sins your wrath have stirred. Ho - ly and right-eous God!
 ness, pit - ies us in our dis - tress. Ho - ly and right-eous God!
 win full a - tone-ment for our sin. Ho - ly and right-eous God!



Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
 Ho - ly and might - y God! **Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful**
 Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful



Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us lest we per - ish
Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Save us from the ter - ror
 Sav - ior! E - ter - nal Lord God! Lord, pre - serve and keep us



in the bit - ter pangs of death. Have mer - cy, O Lord!
 of the fier - y pit of hell. **Have mer - cy, O Lord!**
 in the peace that faith can give. Have mer - cy, O Lord!

Desiring the Kingdom

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sandra Eithun

PRAYERS

Remain seated.

M: Hear my prayer, O Lord. C: Lis - ten to my cry.

M: Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye. C: Hide me

in the shad-ow of your wings. M: In right-eous-ness I shall see

you. C: When I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy.

M: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love’s sake;

M: through Je - sus Christ our Lord.

C: A - men.

M: Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy name;

M: through Je - sus Christ our Lord.

C: A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Sung on a single tone.

M: Our Father in heaven,

C: **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 for - ever. A - men.

GOSPEL CANTICLE



M: Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, **C:** and guard us sleep - ing;



M: that a-wake we may watch with Christ **C:** and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Martin Luther, 1524

CHULA VISTA

Tune and setting by Ian M. Welch, 2014 2017



1 In peace and joy I now de - part as my Lord
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, my faith - ful
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth their great sal -
4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light of those in



wills it; se - rene and qui - et is my heart;
Sav - ior, whom you al - lowed my eyes to see
va - tion; your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth
blind - ness; he guides and com - forts those in night



glad-ness fills it. This the Lord has prom - ised me,
by your fa - vor. Now I know he is my life,
ev - 'ry na - tion by your ho - ly, pre - cious Word,
by his kind - ness. He is Is - rael's right - eous - ness,



that death is but a slum - ber.
my friend when I am dy - ing.
in ev - 'ry place re - sound - ing.
their joy, re - ward, and glo - ry.

BLESSING

M: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Thy Strong Word

Wayne Oquin

Service Participants

This service was designed by Jonathan Bauer.

Presiding Minister

Aaron Strong

Grace, Milwaukee, WI

Preacher

Dr. Mark Paustian

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

Assisting Minister

Jonathan Micheel

Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT

Pianist

Kevin Becker

Grace, Milwaukee, WI

Choir Director

Casey Pufahl

Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI

Children's Choir Director

Kurt Cereske

Shepherd of the Plains, Lubbock, TX

Instrumentalists

Kris Eggers, flute

West Bend, WI

Katherine Dogs, oboe

Wauwatosa, WI

Timothy Kriewall, violin

Issaquah, WA

Betsy Husby, cello

Duluth, MN

Acknowledgments

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