

# Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hermiston, Oregon



## The History of the Ninety-Five Theses from Wikipedia.com

As part of a fund-raising campaign commissioned by Pope Leo X to finance the renovation of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican priest, began the selling of indulgences in the German lands. Even though Luther's prince, Frederick III, and the prince of the neighboring territory, George, Duke of Saxony, forbade the sale in their lands, Luther's parishioners traveled to purchase them. When these people came to confession, they presented their plenary indulgences which they had paid good silver money for, claiming they no longer had to repent of their sins, since the document promised to forgive all their sins. Luther was outraged that they had paid money for what was theirs by right as a free gift from God. He felt compelled to expose the fraud that was being sold to the pious people. This exposure was to take place in the form of a public scholarly debate at the University of Wittenberg. The Ninety-Five Theses outlined the items to be discussed and issued the challenge to any and all comers. According to a report written by Philipp Melancthon, Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517.

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## Call to Worship from Psalm 146:1-4, Mark 13:9-11 and Martin Luther's declaration before Charles V

**P:** Praise the LORD.

**C:** Praise the LORD, O my soul.

**P:** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**C:** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**P:** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**C:** When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.

**P:** Jesus said, ". . . be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.

**C:** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

**P:** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, .

**C:** but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

**P:** Let us join together to make the declaration of Martin Luther before the Emperor Charles V our own declaration before the world:

**All:** "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures  
or by clear reason,

I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted  
and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

I cannot and I will not retract anything,  
since it is neither wise nor right to go against conscience.

I cannot do otherwise,  
here I stand, may God help me, Amen."

## Hymn #816 “From All That Dwells Below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator’s praise arise;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung  
Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends Thy Word.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ All praise to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whom with the Spirit we adore  
Forever and forevermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## Invocation

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

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

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**



## Collect of the Day

**P:** Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn #655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

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## Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 46

**L:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**C: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

**L:** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

**C: The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**L:** Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;



With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpower us.  
This world's prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life,  
Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
Though these all be gone,  
Our vict'ry has been won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**



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

## Offering

**Hymn #566** “By Grace I’m Saved” *modified*

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise?  
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain:  
By grace you too will life obtain.

By faith I’m saved, a gift most holy!  
Given to me by God Himself.  
The trust He’s done the work to save me;  
Work I could not have done myself.  
Lost in my sin and thus enslaved,  
I trust in Christ, through Him I’m saved!

By God’s own Word I know His mercy,  
I hear His plan of love for me.  
All human wisdom is but folly,  
Flowing from broken hearts and minds.  
Scripture alone is wholly true,  
Through it our Lord makes all things new.

All glory to our God and Father;  
All glory to His only Son;  
All glory to the Spirit Holy.  
Our loving God – the Three-in-One.  
Praise Him Who saves by faith and grace  
And through His Word reveals His face!

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## The Prayers of the Church

**The Lord’s Prayer** *from Luther’s German Mass of 1526*

**P:** Friends in Christ: Since we are here assembled in the name of the Lord to receive His Holy Testament, I admonish you first of all to lift up your hearts to God to pray with me the Lord’s Prayer, as Christ has taught us and graciously promised to hear us. That God, our Father in heaven, may look with mercy on us, His needy children on earth, and grant us grace so that His holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of His Word and the fervent love of our lives; that He would graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby His precious name is profaned.

**C: Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name,**

**P:** That His kingdom may come to us and expand; that all transgressors and they who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom be brought to know Jesus Christ His Son by faith, and that the number of Christians may be increased.

**C: Thy kingdom come,**

**P:** That we may be strengthened by His Spirit to do His will, both in life and in death, in good and in evil things, and always to break, slay, and sacrifice our own wills.

**C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**P:** That He would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us to trust that He will provide for all our needs.

**C: Give us this day our daily bread;**

**P:** That He would forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before Him, and that no sin may ever fright or alarm us.

**C: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**P:** That He would not lead us into temptation but help us by His Spirit to subdue the flesh, to despise the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles.

**C: And lead us not into temptation,**

**P:** And lastly, that He would deliver us from all evil, both of body and soul, now and forever.

**C: But deliver us from evil.**

**P:** All those who earnestly desire these things will say from their very hearts: Amen, trusting without any doubt that it is Yea and answered in heaven as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you shall receive it, and you will." Mark 11:24

**C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!**

## **Benediction**

Jude 24-25

**P:** To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,

**C: through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
before all ages, now and forevermore!  
Amen.**

## **Hymn #837 "Lift High the Cross"**

*REFRAIN Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **REFRAIN**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **REFRAIN**

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **REFRAIN**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **REFRAIN**

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **REFRAIN**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **REFRAIN**

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## **Mite Offerings can be placed in the Mite Box as you depart**

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