

# LUTHER SERVICES

FEBRUARY 19, JUNE 25, SEPTEMBER 17, OCTOBER 29, 2017

## Lutheran Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The events in Luther's life commemorated on these days can, at the very least, serve as helpful sermon illustrations. The point of all of this is certainly not hero worship. There is only ONE Hero who is the champion of our faith and worthy of worship. The point of these services is to remind our people of the struggles and consolations that Luther, the Christian, lived. If the person in the pew is breathing and honest, he or she can relate, on the one hand, to Luther's fears and anxieties, and on the other hand, to his tremendous joy because of what God had done for him. Consolation, peace and eternal joy were the objects that this Hezekiah cleaned and restored for all. In every case the Luther observance does not (and should not) eclipse the theme of the day provided by the lectionary.

## GENERAL OUTLINE FOR THE DIVINE SERVICE

### ON THESE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS:

#### I. Preparation

Opening Prayer, p. 41

Entrance Hymn or Introit:

Confession of Sin (I/II), p. 41

Kyrie eleison, Hymn 34 Kyrie, God Father in Heav'n  
Above

Absolution I, II, p. 43

Gloria in excelsis Deo, p. 44

Salutation, p. 45

Collect # , p.

#### II. The Word

OT Lesson:

Anthem or Psalm

Epistle Lesson:

Hymn 33 (choose one stanza that is appropriate to the  
day)

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30

"God be praised..." , p. 46

Nicene Creed, with sung "Amen", p. 47 OR Hymn 38

We All Believe In One True God

Chief Hymn:

Lesson and Sermon

Prayer of the Church and Apostolic Benediction, p. 48

Offering (and Hymn)

#### III. Holy Communion

Exhortation, p. 52

Sanctus: Hymn 41:2 Now Let Us To the Lord Lift Up

Our Hearts (or 41:1, Isaiah, Might Se'er in Days of Old)

The Lord's Prayer, p. 53

The Words of Institution, p. 54

Agnus Dei, p. 55

Distribution of the Sacrament, with Hymns

Collect of Thanksgiving, p. 56

Benediction, p. 56

Closing Verse:

Closing Prayer, p. 57



Note: St. James Music Press (<https://www.sjmp.com/catalog>) cited throughout as "SJMP," is an independent online music publishing house for church and school. A modest annual fee allows a congregation to have access to unlimited copies of all of the diverse music in the catalog.

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Prepared by the Worship Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Hymn and page numbers are from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*. Permission is granted to use this material as desired.

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## FEBRUARY 19, 2017

### SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

(Commemorating the death of Martin Luther, February 18, 1546, and his vocation as Preacher of the Gospel)

#### Readings:

1. Isaiah 55:10-13 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven...
2. 2 Cor. 11:19-12:9 My strength is made perfect in weakness.
3. Luke 8:4-15 The Sower

Introit: Psalm 44

#### Anthem:

St. Martin's Psalter (Selected Psalm Verses with formulary tones derived from widely known hymns and chorales) Psalm 118 based on "Duke Street" includes what might be Luther's favorite psalm verse, "I shall not die, but live...". (SJMP)

In Thee, Alone, O Christ, My Lord J. Weber (SJMP)

Collect(s): #34, 35, p. 151

Gradual: Psalm 83, Psalm 60

Chief Hymn: All of the hymns proper to Sexagesima in ELH are fitting for this anniversary observance. The hymn attributed to Brorson (229 By Faith We Are Divinely Sure) may be most appropriate. If it had been written by Luther it could be considered an autobiographical text.

Entrance Hymn: 24 Lord, Open Thou My Heart. This hymn shares the melody of the closing hymn, which adds a satisfying musical form to the service (just as Luther's life was "rounded" by his birth and death in the same city). It also reinforces the general hermeneutic of the liturgy for this day. We cannot bring the rain and snow from heaven, and there isn't anything we can do to guarantee any growth from that moisture. God gives the growth in his own way and according to his own agricultural plan. God opens our hearts and our lips. Martin Luther acknowledged that God was the source of faith and the generous giver of life.

#### Distribution Hymns:

230 Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

527 In the Midst of Earthly Life

48 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Concluding Verse: 589 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast. This hymn shares the melody of the entrance hymn.

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## JUNE 25, 2017

### TRINITY 2

(Commemorating the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, June 25, 1530, and Martin Luther's vocation as a Confessor of the Faith)

St. Martin's Psalter, Psalm 119 "Erhalt Uns Herr" SJMP

Arise, Shine George Elvey SJMP

God Is My Strong Salvation Shephard SJMP

Readings:

1. Isaiah 25:6-9 A feast of choice pieces.
2. I John 3:13-18 We also ought to lay down our lives for our brethren.
3. Luke 14:16-24 It is done as You commanded. Still there is room.

Introit: Psalm 18

Collect(s): #85, p. 158; #142, p. 166; #28, p.150

Gradual: Psalm 120/Psalm 7

Chief Hymn: ELH 212 Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head

Entrance Hymn: 413 Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

Distribution Hymns: 412 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

414 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

216 Of Zion's Honor Angels Sing

Concluding Verse: 2:3 Thou Holy Fire, Comfort True

It's perhaps too easy to contrive and manipulate the ideas in the propers of the day to the anniversary event being commemorated, but in this case the contrivance is borne out by the Lutheran story. The epistle highlights those who were present at Augsburg at great personal peril. The Old Testament lesson, as well as the Gospel, highlights the good news of the everlasting banquet to which all are invited. One of the messages from Augsburg was clearly the comfort and peaceful satiation of the individual soul. "We show what great consolation it (the absolution) brings to troubled consciences" AC XXV (ELH, p. 18)

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## SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

### TRINITY 14

(Commemorating the release of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament, Sept. 21, 1522, and his vocation as Translator.)

Now Thank We All Our God William Allen Pasch (SJMP)

Come, Sing Unto the Lord H.L. Hassler (SJMP)

Sing Unto the Lord a New Song Gary Lewis (SJMP)

#### Readings:

1. Jeremiah 17:13-14 Heal me, and I shall be healed.
2. Galatians 5:16-22 If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
3. Luke 17:11-19 Were there not any... except this foreigner?

Introit: Psalm 84

Collect(s): #108, p. 161; #109, p. 161; #III, p. 58

Gradual: Psalm 92, 65

Chief Hymn: 462 As After the Waterbrooks Panteth the Hart

This is a long hymn, with a deep, deep text and a satisfying melody. It may not be well-known, so it would probably be a good idea to present it in "alternatim" practice, stanza 1, solo; stanza 2, choir; stanza 3, all, etc.

Entrance Hymn: 72, Thy Strong Word (stanzas 1-3,6)

Distribution Hymns:

411 Christians, Come in Sweetest Measure

258 Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest

261 Who Trusts in God

Concluding Verse: 63:1 Now Thank We All our God

Luther translated the New Testament from Greek to German in eleven weeks while he was a "captive" in the Wartburg. There were episodes of despair during that time, and there were episodes of great productivity. Luther certainly must have applied his monastic disciplines to the translation work, as he devoted himself feverishly to this task. In the last century many biographers have commented on Luther's personality and its role in his work as a reformer. The lessons appointed for the day speak of physical and spiritual healing, as well as a release from the condemnation of God's holy law. What is the source of health? God's word! "Go and show yourselves to the priests...". Luther's translation changed the lives of countless people, and shaped a totally new understanding of the role of God's word in the lives of his faithful people. "I rest on His Word, He will speed me, and conflict and sorrow are past." (462:7)

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## OCTOBER 29, 2017

### REFORMATION SUNDAY

(Commemorating the Lutheran Reformation, and Martin Luther's vocation as Reformer)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God William Roger Price (SJMP)

God Is My Strong Salvation (Gerhardt text) Richard Shephard (SJMP)

Psalm 46 (Ein Feste Burg) St. Martin's Psalter (SJMP)

Psalm 25 (Erhalt Uns; Ein Feste Burg) St. Martin's Psalter (SJMP)

Readings:

1. 2 Chron. 29:12-19 The Levites brought out all the debris... and began to sanctify...
2. Rev. 14:6-7 The everlasting Gospel...to every nation, tribe, tongue and people...
3. Matt. 11:12-15 The kingdom of heaven suffers. (11-19?)

Introit: Psalm 126

Collect(s): 142, p. 166; 107, p.161

Gradual: Psalm 46, Hymns 250 and/or 251

Chief Hymn: 549 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word

Entrance Hymn: 2 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Distribution Hymns: 316/317 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

517 If God Himself Be For Me (select stanzas)

33 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

327 O Lord, We Praise Thee

Concluding Verse: 589 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast