

Worship Plan - Church Year C  
2021-2022



10/30/2022 - Reformation

**SERIES THEME**

standalone week

**THEME OF THE DAY**

***THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE (The Festival of the Reformation)***

We value freedom and strive to protect freedoms. But do we truly understand freedom? Freedom for many means doing what you want without control or coercion. Jesus helps us to understand true freedom: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (Gospel). Jesus says that you will never be free by living however you want. Take that attitude towards life and you'll be a slave. You'll only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—“If you hold to my teaching” and therefore “know the truth.”

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Luther thought it was the answer to all of life's fundamental questions. On what basis is a belief or practice justified or rejected? Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of truth? 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 divinely inspired truth brings freedom. It frees us from slavery to sinful delusions, the burden of guilt, and any earthly power. This week we see that when we willingly bind ourselves to truth, Jesus keeps his promise. The truth sets us free.

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – The old covenant of law could tell people how to act. It could not create the desire to freely do so. The new covenant of grace transforms people's hearts, so they freely and joyfully follow God's will.

**SECOND READING**

Galatians 5:1-6 – St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we have in Christ.

**GOSPEL**

\*\*\* John 8:31-36 – The truth of the gospel sets us free.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 2  
organ and brass  
or piano and instruments

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2 with new GA and proper verse

### **Opening Hymn:**

865 - O Lord, Take Pity Once You've Seen

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 46A

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

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)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 24-29

### **Hymn of the Day:**

863/864 - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

707 - Cling Tightly to the Word of God

### **Closing Hymn:**

855 - The Church's One Foundation

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

707 - Cling Tightly to the Word of God - since st. 1 repeats the sermon text and service theme, consider introducing it and having the congregation repeat it

877 - Reformation Song - requires introduction; congregation can learn refrain quickly

568 - His Robes for Mine - Refrain picked up early by congregation; verses 3,4 for congregation as able

879 - Though All Our Life Is Like a Scroll

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

877, 878, 879 are all based on the Solas

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**