

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALMODY: Psalm 46—*Anthem by choir based on this text.*

¹God is our ref-^luge and strength,
a very present^l help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;
³though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall^l not be shaken;
God shall help it at the^l break of day.
⁶The nations rage, and the^l kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth^l melts away.
⁷The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.
⁸Come now, regard the works^l of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-^l on the earth;
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in^l all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the^l shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that^l I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted^l in the earth."
¹¹The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19–28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31–36

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 6:20-31	Blessed are you who weep
Monday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	There is a time for everything
Tuesday	Isaiah 25:1,4-9	The Lord will wipe away tears
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Hope for those who grieve
Thursday	Revelation 7:9-17	A huge crowd in white robes
Friday	Revelation 21:1-5	God will wipe away tears
Saturday	Psalm 13	I trust in your unfailing love
Sunday	Luke 20:27-38	Jesus speaks of the resurrection

Scripture Verses for the Week:

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. – Romans 3:23-24 (CEV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, what you say is true.
Help me to hold tight to your words. Amen. (John 8:31-32)

For Throughout the Day:

I praise you, God, for you have set me free. Amen. (John 8:36)

A Blessing to Share:

May the Lord Jesus set you free. May his words live in your mind and your heart, now and always. Amen. (John 8:36; Jeremiah 31:33)

Mealtime Refrain:

God treats us much better than we deserve:
Because of Jesus he sets us free. (Romans 3:24)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, please bless the food before us, the people beside us, and the world around us. Amen.



Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something you feel strongly about?
- Martin Luther felt very strongly about God's word being properly preached and taught. Why is God's word important?
- What part does God's word play in your life?

Devotional Practices:

Use one or more of these suggestions for your home devotional times this week:

1. The Reformation was sparked when Martin Luther posted 95 theses (or statements) of belief on the doors of a church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Compose a numbered list of "we believe" statements for your household. Then attach the list to the front door of your home as your household Reformation statement.
2. In 1521 Martin Luther was required to explain and defend his beliefs before the Emperor a Diet (or Assembly) in the city of Worms. When asked to take back his words he said "Here I stand. I can do no other". Talk together about what is involved in taking a stand for Jesus. Then trace the footprints of household members on pieces of card and cut these out. On each one write these words from 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Stand firm. Don't let anything move you. Always give yourselves completely to the work of the Lord." Position the footprints on floors of your house as reminders of our call to stand up for Jesus
3. Learn the words and tune of the classic Reformation hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God".

Service:

Valuing God's word means supporting and encouraging those who proclaim and teach it. Plan an act of service for your pastor e.g. take him to dinner, buy him a movie ticket, offer to mow his lawn or wash his car. Let him know that you appreciate his work in God's name.

Rituals and Traditions:

Plan a Halloween-alternative focused on Reformation Day. Here are some ideas:

- Dress up in red attire (the Reformation Day color). Instead of "trick and treating", visit neighbors to give them something (e.g. a small packet of cookies), symbolizing God's grace to us.
- Play some Reformation Day games e.g. have a "Mighty Fortress" Lego building contest; play "Hide the Heretic" (think Hide and Seek); play "Pin the Theses on the Door" (think Pin the Tail); have a "Throw the Indulgence in the Trash" relay. Invite friends and neighbors to join in. Hand out gummy worms as prizes (think Diet of Worms).

