

The Festival of the
REFORMATION

October 26, 2025



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Lutheran Church

October 26, 2025

PRELUDE

Today's Brass Quintet

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er-more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-'ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.

† SOLA GRATIA †

"He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"

2 Corinthians 5:21

INVOCATION Mt 28:19b

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, as together we make our confession this day, we use words of a confessional hymn text based on Psalm 130, written by Martin Luther more than five hundred years ago in 1523. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution. We speak the words of the psalm and then join in confessing the stanzas penned by the great reformer.
- Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- People: **From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation; Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication. If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win. Or stand before Thy presence?**
- Pastor: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- People: **Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression; The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression. Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand And live alone by mercy.**
- Pastor: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
- People: **Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God's abundant favor; His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver. Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free From all their sin and sorrow.**
- Pastor: God has promised His forgiveness of sins to those who repentantly confess their sins, imploring His grace and mercy for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- People: **Amen.**

THE INTROIT *from Psalm 46*

Festival Introit for Reformation

*Cathedral Choir
Karl Osterland*

Pastor/Choir: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE KYRIE *Mt 9:27, 15:22*

LSB p. 186

People: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE SALUTATION *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: 
 C And with thy spir - it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Luther's Morning Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray aloud together Luther's Morning Prayer:

People: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil Foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

† SOLA SCRIPTURA †

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.*

1 Corinthians 15:3

REFORMATION SEQUENCE: Part 1

Pastor: One of the most famous documents of the Reformation Era is the set of the Ninety-Five Theses posted on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. In this set of ninety-five statements that Dr. Luther wished to have debated was a challenge to accepted practices in the church of his time that Luther felt were at odds with the biblical witness and therefore were not true. His introduction to the set of statements he had written is highlighted by two words: "love" and "truth." We now hear what Luther wrote as the introduction to his now famous Ninety-Five Theses.

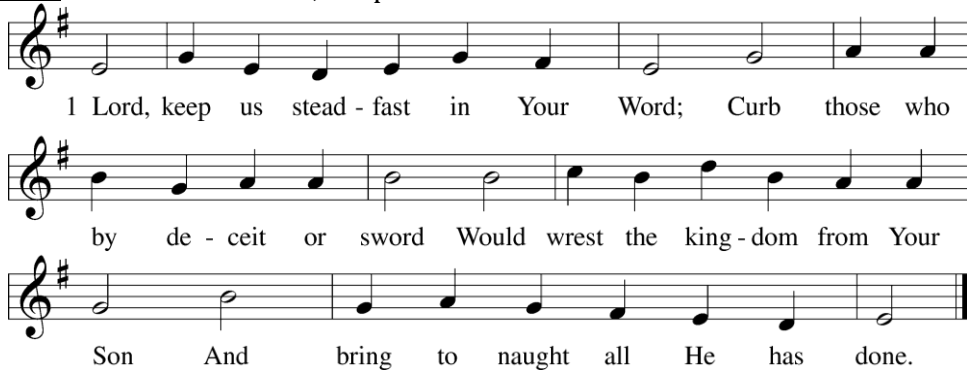
Reader: *“Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be debated at Wittenberg, under presidency of the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and of Sacred Theology, and the Lecturer on Ordinary on the same at that place. For that reason, he requests that those who cannot be present and debate orally with us may do so by letter.”*

Pastor: The challenges to Luther that resulted from his posting of the Ninety-Five Theses remained a constant factor throughout his life. A few years before his death, he wrote the words to the stirring hymn “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word.” Both the text and the tune are attributed to the great reformer.

HYMN VERSE

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

LSB 655 v. 1



FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7

(Fear God and give Him glory.)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19-28

(God's Righteousness)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"O God, Thou Faithful God"

(Cantata 129)

J. S. Bach

The Cathedral Choir

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

(Free Indeed)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 8th chapter.

People:



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

Sola Scriptura ("Scripture Alone") is a fundamental tenet of the Reformation. To that end, the Nicene Creed, adopted by the First Council of Nicea in 325 AD, is a formulation of our faith based **solely** on Scripture. Much like the Reformation, the nature of this Creed was focused on the person, work, and the very nature of Jesus.

I believe in one God, *Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4*
the Father Almighty, *Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3*
maker of heaven and earth *Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*
and of all things visible and invisible. *Colossians 1:16*
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *Romans 10:9*
The only-begotten Son of God, *John 3:16; Matthew 16:16*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *John 1:2*
God of God, Light of Light, *John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1*
very God of very God, *Colossians 2:9*
begotten, not made, *John 1:2*
being of one substance with the Father, *John 10:30*
by Whom all things were made; *Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3*
Who for us men and for our salvation *1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23*
came down from heaven *John 6:41; Luke 15:20*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *Luke 1:34-35*
and was made man; *John 1:14*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18*
He suffered and was buried. *John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53*
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures *1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6*
and ascended into heaven *Acts 1:9*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Acts 7:55*
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64*
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12*
Whose kingdom will have no end. *2 Peter 1:11*
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, *John 14:26; Genesis 1:2, Acts 2:38*
the Lord and giver of life, *Genesis 1:2, John 3:6*
Who proceeds from the Father and Son, *John 15:26*
Who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified, *Mt 3:16-17; Lk 2:14*
Who spoke by the prophets. *Ezekiel 11:5*
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22*
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Ephesians 4:5*
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
and the life ☩ of the world to come. *Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*
Amen. *Psalms 106:48*

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578 v. 1, 2-4, 6

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth
△ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -
laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.
Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

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SERMON

"The Freed One"

John 8:26

Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski, Head Pastor
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.



VOLUNTARY

Today's Brass Quintet

REFORMATION SEQUENCE: Part 2

Pastor: A major focus of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses was his concerns about the marketing of indulgences or letters of pardon for sins committed that were sold by traveling salesmen sent out by the church to raise funds for cathedral construction and other church projects. This money-raising strategy turned the forgiveness God gives freely through Jesus Christ into a commodity that could be purchased for the right price. Indulgences were readily available to wealthy people but not to the masses of common people—the kind of people that Luther knew well and preached to week by week. In Theses 36 and 37, he rightly asserts that God's forgiveness is equally available to all who repent.

Reader: *"Every truly repentant Christian has plenary [full] remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon. Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has a part in all the benefits of Christ and the church, given him by God, even without letters of pardon."*

Pastor: Luther's love for the truth and his desire to bring it to light led to dark times for those who saw the light of the Gospel in the writings of the great reformer. In the second stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Luther prays that God would defend and protect the church and its people. His prayer in his day is our prayer today as well.

HYMN VERSE

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655 v. 2

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 1 Tm 2:1-4

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Order of Holy Communion

† SOLA FIDIA †

*In the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith,
from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Romans 1:17

PREFACE

Pastor: To strengthen our faith our Lord comes to us under bread and wine. "Let
us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need." *Hebrews 4:16*

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: Heavenly Father, it is only by Your infinite grace that the Holy Spirit
planted faith in our hearts. Only thereby are we able to put our trust in
Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and receive the righteousness He won for
us. We rejoice that You have not left us to attempt to understand You, but
have moved people of faith to write the Holy Scriptures, our only rule for
faith and life. Therefore we praise You, Holy Trinity, and with all Your
faithful people in time and eternity, with angels and archangels as we join
to say:

SANCTUS *Is 6:3*

LSB p. 195

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25*

THE PAX DOMINI *Jn 20:19*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

People: ♪ Amen.

♪ **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

For those with health concerns, there are gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white wine available.

TWO STATION COMMUNION:

If you would like to receive communion at the altar, take the path to the left before the chancel step.

If you would like to receive communion in a continuous line, take the path to the right before the chancel step.

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

LSB 909

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
△ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and

help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

DISMISSAL**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: O God, our refuge and our strength, You raised up Your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew Your Church in the light of Your living Word, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Defend and purify the Church in our own day, and

grant that we may boldly proclaim Christ's faithfulness unto death and His vindicating resurrection, which You made known to those in every age who have renewed Your Church by recalling us to this eternal Gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

REFORMATION SEQUENCE: *Part 3*

Pastor: In the final two of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther gave an indication that he was well aware of the pathway that Christians would be taking as they followed the truth of the Gospel. No matter how contentious and challenging the world might be in a given era, the gracious guidance of Christ would be sufficient to lead His faithful flock to the joys of everlasting glory. Hear now Theses 94 and 95.

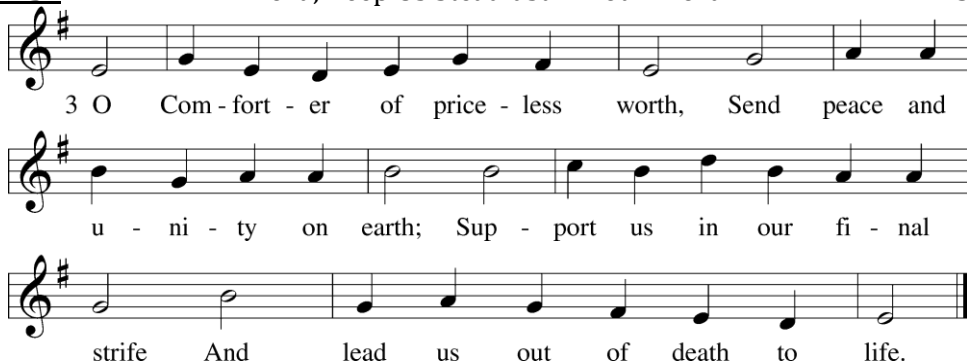
Reader: *"Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22)."*

Pastor: In Thesis 62, Luther shared the heart of his message in a most straightforward way, as he writes, "The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God." The closing stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" is a prayer for peace and unity to the Holy Spirit. With the psalmist we say to our loving Lord, "I will praise You with an upright heart. . . . I will keep Your statutes" (119:7a, 8a). Together we sing the last stanza of Luther's hymn of trust and faith.

HYMN VERSE

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655 v. 3



REFORMATION CLOSING SENTENCES Eph 2:8-10

Pastor: For by grace you have been saved

People: **through faith.**

Pastor: And this is not your own doing;

People: **it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

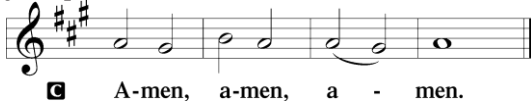
Pastor: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,

People: **that we should walk in them.**

BENEDICTION Num. 6:24-26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you. The † Lord lift his countenance upon you and give
you peace.

People:



CLOSING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress"

(Choir and Congregation)

"Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" was sung by Luther and his companions as they entered Worms, Germany on April 16, 1521 for the Diet. The hymn itself was composed around 1528, and first appeared in hymn form in 1531 under the title "Psalm 46". It was first translated in English shortly thereafter in 1539 with the title "Our God is Our Defense and Tower". This composition became a standard for some of the greatest composers of all time. Bach, Buxtehude, Pachelbel, Handel, Mendelssohn, and others have written scores of music using this text and tune as their inspiration. It still remains the most translated hymn the world has ever sung.

Choir: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**1. All: A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old evil foe, Sworn to work us woe,
With dread craft and might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

Choir: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**2. Men: No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
Women: But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.**

Choir: Ask who this may be:

**All: Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, our Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

3. *Choir: Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow'r us.
This world's prince may rage, In fierce war engage.
He is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

Choir: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

4. **All: God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fight by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
If they take our house, Goods, fame, child, or spouse,
Our life wrench away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever. The Kingdom's ours forever!**

Choir: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

POSTLUDE

Today's Brass Quintet

A Prayer **As you leave...**

Dear God, give us peaceful hearts and a right courage in the confusion and strife against the devil. And so may we not only endure and finally triumph, but also have peace in the midst of the struggle. May we praise and thank You and not complain or become impatient against Your divine will. Let peace win the victory in our hearts. May we remain quiet and peaceable toward You, O Lord, and toward others, both inwardly and outwardly, until Your final and eternal peace shall come.

~ Martin Luther (1483- 1546)