



# REFORMATION 500

## RECITAL AND VESPERS

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

OCTOBER 31, 2017

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(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
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## REFORMATION DAY

### PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

Gracious God and Lord, from Your Word alone I learn that Your grace is sufficient for me as Your power is made perfect in weakness. When I was faithless Your Spirit used Your Word and Sacraments to create faith in my heart to confess my sins and to confess Jesus as my Savior from sin and death. Through Your Word and Sacraments keep me steadfast in my faith which receives and rejoices in all Your gifts freely bestowed upon me. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

### WELCOME

**Welcome to Grace!** While today is certainly just another day, it is a special day for the Lutheran community here and throughout the world as we mark the **500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation**. We are glad that you are here! If you are visiting, we especially wish to extend our greetings to you. We are blessed by your attendance and we pray that you will be blessed by your being with us. While the person of Martin Luther becomes front and center today we need to be reminded that this reformer of the Church would most certainly point us to Jesus Christ and His redeeming work for us and for all. Luther wrote volumes on theology and in his works he wrote of music: "Next to the Word of God the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Not only was Luther a professor of theology and a pastor of the Church, he was also an artist who wrote as many as forty hymns and helped shape the liturgy as we know it today, putting God's Word into the language of the people and helping to restore congregational singing. This evening we are blessed to hear the music of the harp as presented by Alisa Coffey and the music of the organ as presented by Charles Russell, after which we will join our voices together in Vespers as we sing our praises to God in response to His Word for us!

## Recital

### Allemande and Courante

(from *French Suite No. 4, BWV 415*)

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Alisa Coffey ~ Harp

The French Suites were written for harpsichord during Bach's tenure as court music director in Cöthen, Germany. Between the periods of his life where Bach was a prolific sacred music

composer, these years allowed Bach to compose solo and ensemble music for domestic or courtly entertainment. The Suites, nicknamed “French Suites” at a later date, were written in a notebook for his wife, Anna Magdalena, and are presumed to have been a birthday gift presented to her in 1722. A prominent biographer of Bach, Philipp Spitta, wrote that Suites 4-6 have a “charming mood ... a blissful, contented, happy feeling the world is beautiful and man has the privilege of delighting in it.”

The French Suites work particularly well transcribed for the harp. Although this work is not classified as sacred music, I draw inspiration from Bach’s musical skill and commitment to excellence throughout the whole of his career. One surmises that this flows from the well-known footnote with which he signed many of his works, *Soli Deo Gloria*.

## **Prelude in B Minor (BWV 544)**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Charles Russell ~ Organ

The central figure of the Baroque period, **Johann Sebastian Bach** came from a long line of musicians. Born at Eisenach, Bach lost both parents at the age of ten, within a span of one year. After studying with his older brother, Johann Christoph, and at St. Michael's School in Lüneburg, Bach held positions as a court musician in Weimar, and as organist in Arnstadt and Mühlhausen. After returning to Weimar in 1708, Bach spent a great amount of time composing for keyboard, orchestra, and organ, notably working on *The Well-Tempered Clavier* for keyboard and the *Orgelbüchlein*. After serving in Cöthen as Kapellmeister, Bach moved to his last position in Leipzig as Kantor of St. Thomas Church, all the while continuing to compose a wealth of music, including the renowned cantatas, masses, and additional organ works.

The **Prelude in B Minor** is one of Bach's later organ works, written between 1727 and 1731, while Bach was in Leipzig. Described by Marie-Claire Alain as an "incontestable masterpiece," the Prelude features striking chords and scalar runs, alternating between forceful and lighter sections. Alain suggests that the tonality of B minor, with its falling interval of E to A sharp, suggests a theme of suffering and death. Breathless syncopations and diminished intervals further suggest this theme.

## **The Moldau** (from *Ma vlast*)

Bedřich Smetana  
(1824-1884)

Alisa Coffey ~ Harp

*The Moldau* is symphonic poem originally written for orchestra, transcribed here for solo harp by Hanuš Trneček. Part of *Ma vlast* (My Country), a larger group of works that Smetana wrote in honor of the Czech nation, *The Moldau* describes the famous river that flows through the Czech countryside to Prague. It depicts in musical form the source of the river, starting as two simple streams that converge into a whole, the mountains that the river travels through, a moonlit grotto with water nymphs, dangerous rapids, and the regal end of the river's journey in Prague.

I find this piece an appropriate Reformation meditation because of its celebration of one of the many countries originally part of the Holy Roman Empire that would play a prominent role in and would be directly impacted by the Reformation. This piece also portrays universal ideas that I find personally inspirational: the mysteriousness and beauty of nature, specifically of water, and the tale of a journey marked with beauty and struggle that ultimately ends triumphantly.

## **Kleine Toccata- “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott”**

Walter Schindler  
(1909-2008)

Charles Russell ~ Organ

Born at Niederschöna, Saxony in 1909, **Walter Schindler** studied at the Church Music Institute in Leipzig under Kurt Thomas, Fritz Reuter, Karl Straube (organist of St. Thomas Church, Leipzig) and Karl Hoyer. Schindler held office as Organist of the famed Gartenkirche (Garden Church) in Hanover between 1932 and 1975, and also served as lecturer at the Church Music School, Hanover and teacher at the Academy of Education, Hanover. While only having published a small number of works, his compositions are highly regarded by those who are familiar with them.

Schindler's **Kleine Toccata** is built on the theme of Martin Luther's hymn "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott," better known in English as "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The Toccata presents accented ninth chords alternating with syncopated rhythms, followed by scalar runs in the manuals and pedals. The hymn tune is then presented with a light, brisk accompaniment and

non-traditional harmonic progressions. The last section features triplets against sixteenth notes, followed by a statement of the hymn tune's last section surrounded by scalar runs.

## **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

Paul H. Hurst

Alisa Coffey ~ Harp

Paul Hurst is a harpist, pianist and composer out of Southern California known for writing many beautiful harp arrangements. He employs plenty of harpistic sparkle in this arrangement of the revered Reformation hymn.

## **Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice**

Paul Manz  
(1917-2009)

Charles Russell ~ Organ

One of the most well-known figures in Lutheran church music in the twentieth century, **Paul Manz** served the Church as recitalist, composer, teacher and leader in worship. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Manz studied at Concordia Teachers' College, River Forest, Illinois, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. While serving as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a Fulbright grant enabled him to study with Flor Peeters in Belgium and Helmut Walcha in Germany in the mid-1950s. After his return to the United States, Manz taught at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, Christ Seminary-Seminex at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and directed the Paul Manz Institute of Church Music. During his time in Chicago, Manz also served as Cantor at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Luke.

Known especially for his improvisations on hymns, Manz "cultivated and rigorously promoted the idea of the hymn festival - a program of singing, readings, and organ music, often assisted by choirs and instrumentalists." Manz sought to point the texts of hymn stanzas, which helped to nurture the comprehension of the text.

**"Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice"** is an example of a Manz hymn improvisation. This particular improvisation is centered on themes expressed in the pedals, ranging from leaps of thirds and fourths to chromatic passages. The hymn tune is presented in four sections between the pedal sections.

# The Order of Vespers

## Ringing of the Church Bell

Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556 sts. 1-4

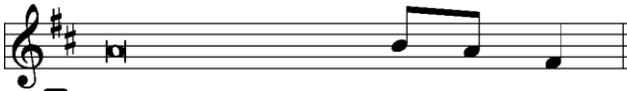
*Stand*

## Versicles

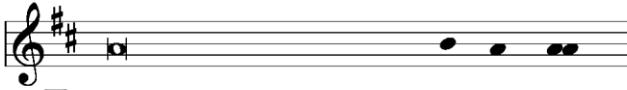
*Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



*Common:* Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

# Psalmody

## Psalm

*Psalm 46 (antiphon: v.7)*



- P** God is our ref- | uge 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,**
- P** though its waters | roar and foam,\*  
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.
- C** **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,\***  
**the holy habitation of the | Most High.**
- P** God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;\*  
God will help her when | morning dawns.
- C** **The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;\***  
**he utters his voice, the | earth melts.**
- P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.
- C** **Come, behold the works | of the LORD,\***  
**how he has brought desolations | on the earth.**
- P** He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;\*  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots | with fire.
- C** **“Be still, and know that | I am God.\***  
**I will be exalted among the nations,**  
**I will be exalted | in the earth!”**
- P** The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress
- C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

*Sit*

Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556 sts. 5-8

# Readings

## Old Testament

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

**P** A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 3:19–28*

**P** A reading from Romans, the third chapter.

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

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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. It 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.

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. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Magnificat: My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

# Prayer

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **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**

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with your spir - it.

## Collect of the Day

**L** Let us pray.

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.



## Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Stand*

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*



## Benediction



**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556 sts. 9-10

Postlude

*“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” ~ Helmut Walcha*



## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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## THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor:

Rev. James C. Walter

Director of Parish Music:

Charles Russell

Harp:

Alisa Coffey

Acolyte:

James Junkans

Ushers:

Joel Junkans, Gervais LeBlanc, Gary Proud