


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
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www.siouxcitystpauls.org



Therefore we will not fear...
though the mountains
be moved into
the heart of the sea,
though its waters
roar and foam.

P S A L M 4 6 : 2 - 3 , E S V

6 p.m. Sat., Oct. 24 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., Oct. 25, 2020
"When Things Fall Apart" Psalm 46



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

REFORMATION DAY

(6 p.m. Sat., October 24 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., October 25, 2020)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Dallas Schulz Team

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat., Marlis Hilden; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Susie Joines

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP 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. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm *Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7*

P: God is our refuge and strength

C: a very present help in trouble.

P: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

C: though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

P: though its waters roar and foam,

C: though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

P: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: the holy habitation of the Most High.

P: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

C: God will help her when morning dawns.

P: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

C: he utters his voice, the earth melts.

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P: Come, behold the works of the LORD,

C: how he has brought desolations on the earth.

P: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

C: he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

P: "Be still, and know that I am God.

C: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Confession and Absolution *Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*

P: Lord of hosts,

C: hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

P: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant. Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading Revelation 14:6–7 (An angel announces the time for judgment.)

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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

C: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

The Epistle Lesson Romans 3:19–28

(We need not fear the Law's accusation, for we are justified by grace.)

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:

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| <p>²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and 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</p> | <p>righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.</p> <p>²⁷Then 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.</p> |
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L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Verse *Luke 12:32*

C: Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel John 8:31–36 (We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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| <p>³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that</p> | <p>you say, 'You will become free'?"</p> <p>³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.</p> |
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P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB 657

Sermon "When Things Fall Apart" Psalm 46

(Sermon Notes are available on the back side of the bulletin)

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are

obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Exodus 35:4-5—Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the Lord. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord’s contribution.”

Offertory Hymn “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805

(stand as you are able)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances.

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Heavenly Father, as we approach a time in our nation to choose our leaders and representatives, we ask You to grant wisdom to all who will cast their ballots. Help us to choose the best and most honorable among us to lead us. Use the consciences of all, Your law written on the hearts of all people, to guide everyone in all their decisions. Give us leaders who will govern with wisdom and laws that bring order and justice to our nation. Provide a continued environment in which Your Church may preach and teach all of Your Word and administer Your sacraments without interference or persecution. We ask that you help our citizens to unite for the common good of all, obeying the law of the land, setting aside selfishness and all evil thoughts. When all decisions are made, help us to support our leaders in all their work, and to obey all laws that do not oppose You and Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with sickness. Today we especially remember Karen Black, Pat Murphy and Kim Sparr in our prayers. We also remember those who are going through unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, *especially for the family of Dorothy Krom*. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Brett Baker, Audrey Hayes, Melissa Kilman, Wade Schuldt, Darlene Allison, Matthew Dodds, Dawn Hindman, Donne Schuldt, and Stanley Petersen. Lord in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" LSB 655

Silent Prayer

Postlude

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“When Things Fall Apart”

Date: 10/25/20

Text: Psalm 46

Verse for Meditation

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
Psalm 46:7

Points to Ponder

1. What happens when things fall apart?
 - What-ifs, How-longs, How-bads
 - We're imperfect people living in an imperfect world.
 - How should we as Christians respond during these times?

Introduction: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear” (vs 1–2a).

Scene 1 (vs 2b–5)

- A. Natural calamity
- B. The peaceful river from the heart of God

Scene 2 (vs 6–7)

- A. Geopolitical conflict
- B. The fortress

Scene 3 (vs 8–11)

- A. The sovereign judgment of God visited on his creation
- B. The gracious proclamation of God

Conclusion: “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress” (v 11).

2. Which of these three scenes do you see in your life right now?
3. In the middle of the chaos and the anxiety and the uncertainty, where is your faith? In whom is your faith?
4. God Himself comes to us in this psalm and encourages us with these words: Do not be alarmed. Do not worry. Do not be afraid.