

OCTOBER 31, 2021
REFORMATION SUNDAY



The grace of God through faith sets us free.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Monday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Tuesday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Wednesday	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
Thursday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of victory
Friday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our protection
Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, may faith in you give us peace and joy, and move us to love and serve others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of the gift of faith that we may be strengthened to love you and our neighbor each and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who frees you from the power of sin bless you with everlasting joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rise, Shine, You People



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Sin is about broken relationships with others and with God. What does sin mean to you?
- God in Christ only saves and frees sinners. Is this a surprising message for you? Explain.
- How does confessing one's sinfulness bring joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Luther was not the only reformer shaped by Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans became a signature book of the New Testament to reform the church's practice away from a message that suggested that our eternal life with Christ was dependent upon our actions. Through Christ's work—not ours—we are redeemed. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was “strangely moved” by hearing Luther's commentary on Romans. Wesley saw in this letter that being justified by Christ through faith meant that followers of Jesus were more than people set free from sin. Salvation was the restoration of the human ability to bear God's image in the world. Luther called this being a “little Christ” to one's neighbor. We have all fallen short; redemption is a gift of God received through faith. By the grace of God through faith, we are God's people participating in the work of Christ in the world. We are now the ones reconciling all that is God's back to God. We are made right with God through faith in Christ that we may be the hands, feet, and voice of God's healing work in the world. Where have you witnessed God's healing work in the world?

Pray: **Awesome God, help us to believe and give thanks every day that our relationship to you is a gift of your undeserved kindness through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

We have been born anew to a living faith that sends us out into the world on behalf of God's love through Christ. How can you be part of Christ's ongoing work of healing lives today? What might you do this week to extend Christ's love to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Before the Reformation, the Bible was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. It was not accessible to the common person. An important part of the Reformation was to translate the word of God in the Bible to a language people understood. Luther translated the Bible into German. Other reformers translated the Bible into other languages. In appreciation for the fact that the Bible can now be read around the world in many different languages, including your own, take time this week to read and highlight some of your favorite Bible passages.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org