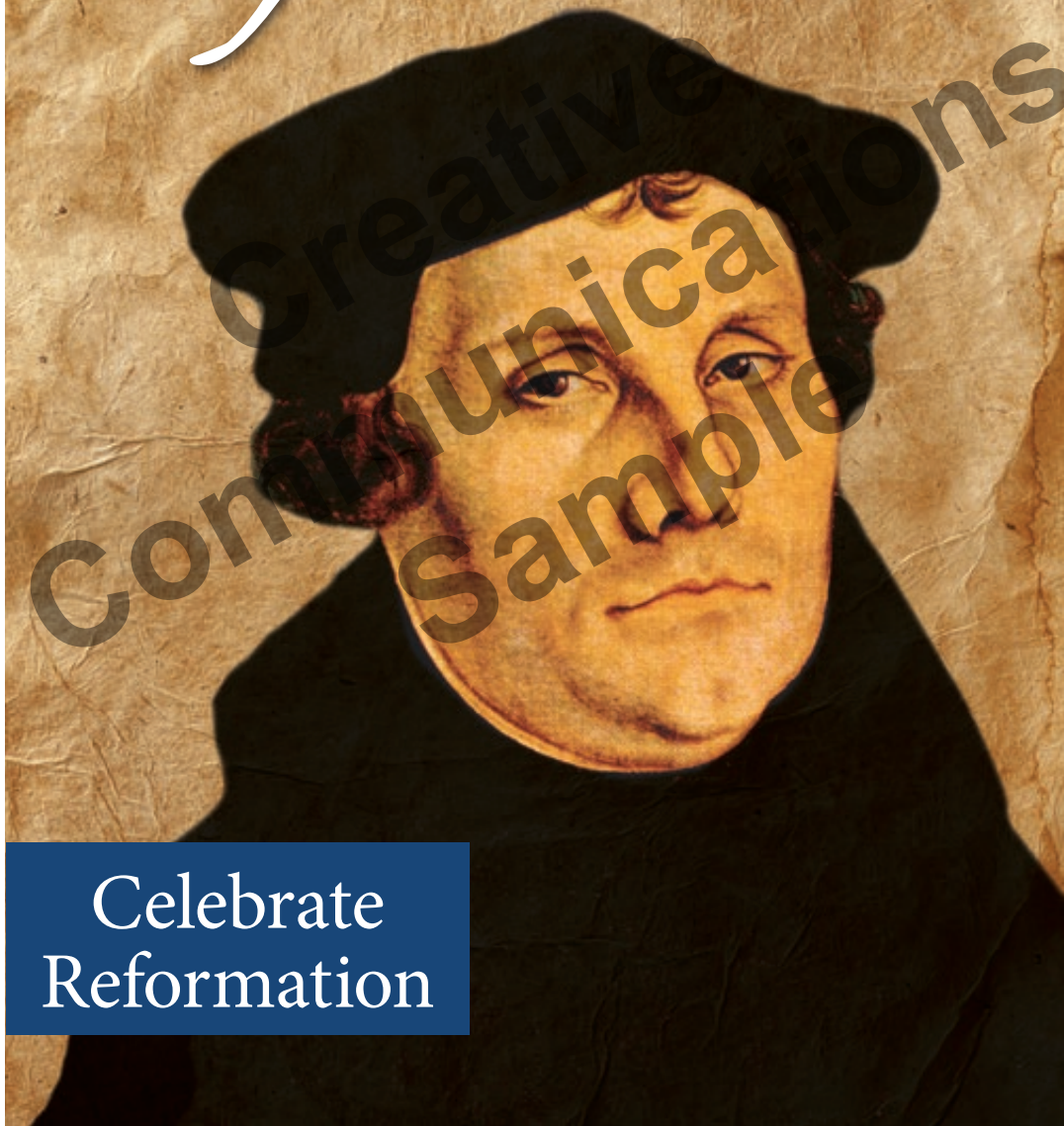


Grounded *in*
Grace



Celebrate
Reformation

LEADER'S GUIDE

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Leader's Guide

Grounded *in* Grace

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Grounded *in* Grace

Notes and Ordering Information

In this Reformation worship service, we are reminded that our faith is firm because we are grounded in grace. Bible readings, hymns, prayers, a homily and a children's message assure us that we cannot be shaken by the troubles of this world because our Savior solidified our future by being nailed to a cross to die for us and rising again. Hymns include "A Mighty Fortress," and "By Grace I'm Saved."

Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code RF4A

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Grounded *in* Grace

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to the solid Reformation service, “Grounded in Grace,” in which reminded that our faith is firm because we are saved by Christ. This service’s Bible readings, hymns, prayers, homily and a children’s message will assure us that we cannot be shaken by the troubles of this world because the foundation of our future is our Savior, who died on the cross for us.

Bulletin Notice

Today we welcome you to this solid Reformation service, “Grounded in Grace,” in which we are reminded that our faith is firm because we are saved by Christ. This service’s Bible readings, hymns, prayers, homily and a children’s message will assure us that we cannot be shaken by the troubles of this world because our Savior, who died and rose for us, is the rock solid foundation of our future.

Grounded *in* Grace

Order of Service

Opening Hymn..... O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte (Dretzel) 98 98 88

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; my soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No; then this word must true remain; by grace you too will life obtain.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit that Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, that brought him from his heavenly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; as long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, what in his Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done depends on grace—grace through his Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, in tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, the Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure if grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; in Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace alone.

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 The Lord of hosts is with us;

C the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P It is better to take refuge in the Lord

C than to trust in man.

P It is better to take refuge in the Lord

C than to trust in princes.

P The Lord is my strength and my song;

C he has become my salvation.

P I shall not die, but I shall live,

C and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Confession and Absolution

C Almighty God, heavenly Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities by which I have offended you and rightly deserve your punishment now and for all eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sin that clings to me by nature and shows in my thoughts, words, and deeds. And so I flee to you and you alone, for you are my refuge and strength, and you alone are my salvation. To you I cry, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

P Beloved of God, there is life for those who take refuge in the Lord and in him alone, for the Lord is indeed merciful to all who hide themselves in him. Christ Jesus died for you and lives again, and so as his called and ordained servant I declare to you that your sins are forgiven, for

he is your strength and song, he is your salvation. Know this: grounded in his grace, you shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise..... Nun Lob, Mein Seel 78 78 76 76 76 76

His grace remains forever, and children's children yet shall prove
That God forsakes them never who in true fear shall seek his love.

In heav'n is fixed his dwelling, his rule is over all;
O hosts with might excelling, with praise before him fall.
Praise him forever reigning, all you who hear his Word—
Our life and all sustaining. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

First Reading.....Revelation 14:6-7

Epistle Reading.....Romans 3:19-28

Gospel Reading.....John 8:31-36

Sermon HymnEin Feste Burg (Rhythmic) 8787 55 567

A mighty Fortress is our God, a trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.

The old evil Foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One, whom God himself elected.

Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord, and there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us.

We tremble not, we fear no ill, they shall not overpower us.

This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, he's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods, fame, child and wife,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Grounded in grace, we know,

C You are our refuge and strength.

Lord's Prayer

(Holy Communion, if offered, is celebrated at this time.)

Benediction

Closing Hymn..... Es Ist Das Heil 87 87 887

Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, they help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God did in his Law demand and none to him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand for man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires the spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

Since Christ hath full atonement made and brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad and build on this foundation.
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, thy death is now my life indeed,
For thou hast paid my ransom.

Grounded *in* Grace

Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte (Dretzel) 98 98 88:

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; my soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No; then this word must true remain; by grace you too will life obtain.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit that Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, that brought him from his heavenly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; as long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, what in his Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done depends on grace—grace through his Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, in tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, the Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure if grace were not my anchor sure?

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

▣ Foundations are important. Get the base wrong, and what's built is shaky. It's important to get things right from the start, to be squarely grounded on the right spot. The Jews listening to Jesus in John 8 thought they had a solid spot—but not quite. And “not quite” put them on shaky ground. Although they were not happy with what Jesus said about their foundation, he did some important site work to set things right.

While Jesus had critics sniping at him, other people apparently believed after a fashion, although they hadn't put everything together. Then in John 8 Jesus touched a hot-button topic: their identity, their history, their roots, their foundation. You'd expect students to follow a teacher's word. But when Jesus says his words will set them free, pride in the family heritage kicks in. “We have never been slaves. We're grounded on Abraham, and that makes us free.” Politically speaking, they know that's ridiculous with the long history of occupiers right down to Rome. But intellectually and spiritually, they claimed they were no slaves.

Truth be told, Abraham actually was a good foundation, as long as they don't just gaze backward at their ancestry but rather look forward to the Messiah promised from Abraham's line. There's Abraham, and then there's Abraham's line—depends on how that's understood. Sadly, when Jesus challenged their resting on heritage, many circled the wagons, defending their place in Abraham's line as a guarantee. They were off the proper foundation. Worse, they'd done it to themselves. Heritage in and of itself brought nothing. Being grounded in and on the One promised by God in grace to Abraham and then to Israel on up to John 8 meant everything. Now here was God's chosen one right before their very eyes, trying to set them on the right foundation, and they want to dwell misguided in the past. But God in grace would not give up on them but would give them plenty more to see with Calvary and the empty tomb. In that way Abraham was a blessing to the John 8 listeners and to all the nations (Genesis 12:1–3)—not by being part of a bloodline but by Christ's blood.

Today we remember the Reformation, a time of getting back on the foundation. In Luther's day the (institutional) church had become an “Abraham,” a guarantee because of its long past and grand present—more impressive certainly than what the Jews could muster in John 8. Yes, there was talk of Christ and faith, of sin and grace, but the foundation was not quite right because along with that came more talk calling for a need to do something to wrap up salvation. This was not some crude salvation by works—a caricature—but rather a more subtle salvation by faith finished with or supplemented by works. It sounds good, and it's close, but (—think here of a builder's level—) it's not on bubble. Close leaves us on shaky ground, never sure how things will end.

Putting things back on solid ground is easier said than done. Many in Martin Luther's day rested on their “Abraham,” the institutional church that they said would make them free. But in fact the message of faith plus works left people feeling around, groping for the bottom.

Grounded *in* Grace

Music Guide

O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte (Dretzel) 98 98 88	30-31
Nun Lob, Mein Seel 78 78 76 76 76 76	32-33
Ein Feste Burg (Rhythmic) 8787 55 567	34-35
Es Ist Das Heil 87 87 887	36-37

Tune.....O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte (Dretzel) 98 98 88

1

1

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The treble clef staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/4 time signature. The bass clef staff begins with a bass clef, the same key signature, and the same time signature. Both staves are marked with a '1' at the beginning. The music consists of chords and single notes, primarily in a homophonic style.

5

5

This system contains measures 5 through 8. The notation continues from the previous system, maintaining the same key signature and time signature. The watermark 'Creative Communications' is visible across this system.

9

9

This system contains measures 9 through 12. The notation continues from the previous system. The watermark 'Creative Communications' is visible across this system.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen Hätte (Dretzel) 98 98 88:

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; my soul, believe and doubt it not.
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