

OCTOBER 29, 2017  
REFORMATION  
SUNDAY



*We are saved by grace through faith.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	Romans 1:8-17	The gospel is the power of God
Thursday	Galatians 2:15-21	Justified through faith
Friday	Galatians 3:1-14	Works of the law or faith
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our refuge
Sunday	Matthew 23:1-12	Humble yourselves

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Jesus Christ, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. **Romans 3:23-24 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, help us to love our neighbors today. Amen. (Matthew 22:39)

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, good and great, thanks for all that's on our plates. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God keep you strong and well. May the Lord help you to love God and others with all your heart.



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OCTOBER 29, 2017  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*God's Word is Our  
Great Heritage*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Share about a time when you worked hard to achieve something.
- Reformation means change. Have you experienced a major change in your life? What was it like?
- Jesus says that the one who commits sin is a slave to sin. What enslaves you or keeps you from loving God and neighbor?

### DEVOTIONS

Reformation Day on October 31<sup>st</sup> recognizes the day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted *The 95 Theses* on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. These statements were written to challenge the teachings and practices of the church in Luther's day. The first thesis states, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent,' he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance." To repent is to turn to God in faith and be set free from our sins. In Christian worship it is expressed in the corporate confession:

**"For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways."**

Talk about what the gift of repentance and forgiveness means to you. Then pray the above confessional prayer.

### SERVICE

The Bible Society is a Christian organization whose mission is to make the Word of God available to all people in their own language. Find out more about the work of the Bible Society in your country and in other countries. Consider making a donation to support their mission of bringing the Bible to people across the world.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and Martin Luther's desire for people to read the Bible in their own language, read the passages from "Daily Bible Readings", texts that were selected for their influence on the early Reformers. Begin each reading by praying the following:

**Dear God, just as you opened the hearts of the Reformers, so open my heart to receive the freedom and salvation of the gospel as a gift of grace. In Jesus' name, amen.**

End each reading by singing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (or the "Hymn of the Week") and use "A Blessing to Give" found in this *Taking Faith Home*.



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