



## The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

June 25 marks the day in 1530 when God-fearing leaders took their stand for the gospel and presented their confession of faith before Emperor Charles V in Augsburg, Germany. Even more than October 31 this day marks the birth of the Lutheran Church. Centered in Christ and focused on the free gift of salvation by grace through faith, the Augsburg Confession continues to shape what we believe, teach, and confess today.

Perhaps even more than Luther's famous seal, the symbol VDMA placed around the cross is considered the symbol of the Lutheran Reformation. The four letters represent the motto VERBUM DEI MANET IN AETERUM: The Word of God endures forever.

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### Hymn

### Lift High the Cross

*Christian Worship 579*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### A Confession of Sin and Grace

*from the Augsburg Confession*

It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God.

**This original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit.**

It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

**For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight.**

To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments.

**Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel.**

## **Song of Praise**

*Christian Worship 536*

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, you are her one foundation.  
In you she trusts, before you bows, and waits for your salvation.  
Built on this rock secure, your Church shall endure  
Though all the world decay and all things pass away.  
Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!**

**O Lord, let this your little flock, your name alone confessing,  
Continue in your loving care, true unity possessing.  
Your sacraments, O Lord, and your saving Word  
To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain  
Our only strength and comfort.**

## **The Word**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.  
O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

**Isaiah 55:6-11**

*The Lord's Word will achieve its purpose.*

## **Psalm of the Day**

**Psalm 119:41-48**

May your unfailing love come / to me, Lord,  
your salvation, according to your / promise;

then I can answer anyone who / taunts me,  
for I trust / in your word.

Never take your word of truth / from my mouth,  
for I have put my hope / in your laws.

I will always o-/bey your law,  
for ever and / ever.

I will walk about in / freedom,  
for I have sought out your / precepts.

I will speak of your statutes / before kings  
and will not be / put to shame,

for I delight in / your commands  
because I / love them.

I reach out for your commands, / which I love,  
that I may meditate on / your decrees.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and the the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be / ginning,  
is now and will be forever. / Amen.**

## **Second Reading**

**Romans 10:5-17**

*With your mouth you confess and are saved.*

*Stand to acclaim the Gospel*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal is your glorious Word.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 10:32-39**

*Whoever acknowledges Christ is acknowledge before his Father.*

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

Lord Jesus, Christ, with Us Abide  
*Christian Worship 541*

## Sermon

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Be seated*

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

*Stand*

Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins. For our sakes you accepted his sacrifice on the cross and raised him from death to glorious splendor.

**Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

When the time had fully come, you bestowed your Spirit on your people as a testimony that you had called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the Word of salvation into all the world.

**The Lord reigns. Let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.**

When the time had fully come, you raised up your servants, the Lutheran reformers, to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures to a troubled Church. You renewed your people with the light of your love, and your holy church grew and prospered throughout the world.

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.**

When the time had fully come, you made our forefathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. You have blessed their sons and daughters and have enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel.

**Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.**

Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

**May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us.**

Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

**May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Hymn**

## **Brave Hearts Made Bold**

*Words by Stephen Starke*

*Tune: ES IST GEWISSLICH*

*Christian Worship 207*

**Brave hearts made bold God's truth confessed,  
Both life and honor daring;  
The apostolic faith expressed,  
Before the world declaring  
That God is one, yet One in Three,  
Coequal in their majesty:  
God-Father, Son, and Spirit.**

**God's only Son embraced our shame,  
Our tent of flesh assuming;  
This guiltless Lord our sin became,  
Sin's wage to death Him dooming;  
In Pontius Pilate's judgment hall  
Bedecked in bloodied, purple pall,  
Christ made the good confession.**

**Our full forgiveness Christ has won;  
What sinless, selfless dying!  
Faith trusts all Jesus Christ has done**

His merit, justifying!  
His holy, spotless righteousness,  
We here believe and here confess;  
No work can gain God's favor.

O Lord, I love your holy house,  
Your glory here is dwelling;  
Your law is preached my heart to rouse,  
To censure its rebelling;  
Your gospel words of truth and grace,  
All fears within my heart erase  
Glad news of peace, O Jesus!

Your steadfast love before my eyes;  
Your faithfulness, my blessing!  
Your truth I cannot compromise,  
Before the world confessing;  
For in your Word and Sacrament,  
I find my strength and am content  
And taste the joy of heaven.

Brave hearts, be bold! God's truth confess,  
Your life and honor daring;  
The apostolic faith express,  
By word and deed declaring  
The love of God in Christ for all,  
That all may heed Love's wedding call  
And feast with God forever!

*Stand*

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Hymn**

**Preserve Your Word, O Savior**

*Christian Worship 289*

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## Acknowledgments

**Brave Hearts Made Bold** – Text © Stephen Starke 2015. Used by permission.

## Service Notes

The liturgical color for the commemoration is red.

Worshippers may stand for the opening hymn.

Psalm 119:41-48 has been chosen since it includes the psalm quoted on the title page of the Augsburg Confession, “I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame.” The psalm may be spoken. The refrain and psalm tone of any of the settings of Psalm 119 in *Christian Worship* may also be used. Other psalms may replace this psalm.

More familiar hymns may replace Stephen Starke’s hymn “Brave Hearts Made Bold.” The service indicates the use of the tune ES IST GEWISSLICH, CW 2017.

The service does not offer resources for the inclusion of Holy Communion. Congregations may use the setting for the Sacrament with which they are familiar.

If the Sacrament is included, the Nicene Creed replaces the Apostles’ Creed; the Proper Preface for Minor Festivals is used; “Brave Hearts Made Bold” may serve as the Distribution Hymn.