St. James Worship Service

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Serving Today

Minister	Pastor Don Knowles
Organist/Pianist	Dr. John Hildreth
Worship Assistant	Stacy Miles
Lector	Doug Nelson
Video	Jerry Johansen

Today's Music

504	***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***
652	***Built on a Rock***
511	***Thy Strong Word***

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504

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
   a sword and shield victorious;
   he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod
   and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe

has sworn to work us woe!

With craft and dreadful might

he arms himself to fight.

On earth he has no equal.

2. No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.

You ask who this may be?

The Lord of hosts is he!

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,

God’s only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat’ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow’r us.

Let this world’s tyrant rage;

in battle we’ll engage!

His might is doomed to fail;

God’s judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

4. God’s Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house,

goods, honor, child, or spouse,

though life be wrenched away,

they cannot win the day.

The kingdom’s ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1493-1546, tr.

652

Built on a Rock

1. **Built on a rock the church shall stand,**
   even when steeples are falling;
   crumbled have spires in ev’ry land,
   bells still are chiming and calling —

calling the young and old to rest,

calling the souls of those distressed,

longing for life everlasting.

2. **Surely, in temples made with hands**
God the Most High is not dwelling —
high in the heav’ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.

Yet God who dwells in heav’n above

deigns to abide with us in love,

making our bodies his temple.

3. **Christ builds a house of living stones:**

we are his own habitation;

he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,

granting us life and salvation.

Where two or three will seek his face,

he in their midst will show his grace,

blessings upon them bestowing.

4. Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.

Jesus to us his Spirit sent,

making with us his covenant,

granting his children the kingdom.

5. Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church
bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:

“I know my own, my own know me;

you, not the world, my face shall see;

my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872;
tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.

511

Thy Strong Word

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
   at thy speaking it was done.
   For created light we thank thee,
   while thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of thy salvation,
breathed thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
bright with thine own holiness,
glorious now, we press toward glory,
and our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

4. From the cross thy wisdom shining
breaketh for in conqu’ring might;
from the cross forever beameth
all thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

5. Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the light which thou dost send

fill our songs with alleluias,

alleluias without end!

6. God the Father, light-creator,
to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer,

glory, glory be to thee.

Mortals, angels, now and ever

praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

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