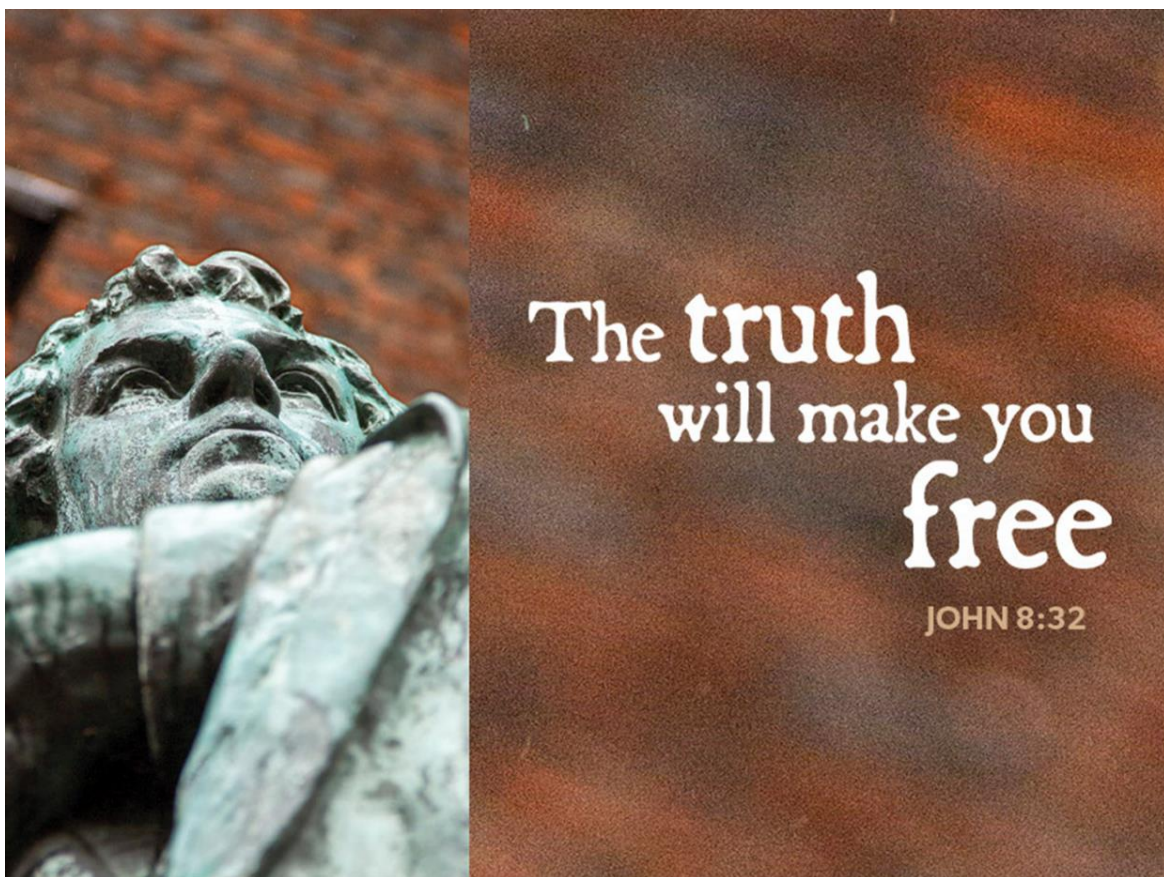


REFORMATION SUNDAY

HOLY COMMUNION



October 29, 2023 ~ 10:00am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor

Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.org

+ *Congregation Please Stand if Able*

PRELUDE- "Built on the Rock"

Arr. Benjamin Culli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ **GATHERING HYMN- "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

ELW 504

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.

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

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.

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!

+GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

+KYRIE - "Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"

ELW 602

1 *Leader*: O God, Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.

All: Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know,
by ev'ry evil, ev'ry woe;
upon your cross-forsaken Son
our death is laid, and peace is won.

2 *Leader*: O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.

All : Your arms extend, O Christ, to save
from sting of death and grasp of grave;
your scars before the Father move
his heart to mercy at such love.

3 *Leader*: O God, Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.

All: O lavish Giver, come to aid
the children that your word has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray;
bring joy and comfort; come to stay.

+HYMN OF PRAISE - "All Glory Be to God on High"

ELW 410

1 All glory be to God on high,
who has the world befriended;
to us no harm shall now come nigh,
the strife at last is ended.
God shows goodwill to one and all,
and peace when troubled sinners
call.
Thank God for grace and mercy!

2 O Father, for your lordship true
we give you praise and honor;
we worship you; we trust in you;
we give you thanks forever.
Your will is perfect, and your might
relentlessly confirms the right;
your lordship is our blessing.

3 Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, creation's author,
redeemer of your wand'ring ones,
and source of all true pleasure;
O Lamb of God, O Lord divine,
conform our lives to your design,
and on us all have mercy.

4 O Holy Spirit, perfect gift,
who brings us consolation:
to men and women saved by Christ
assure your inspiration.
Through sickness, need, and bitter
death,
grant us your warm, life-giving
breath;
our lives are in your keeping.
Amen.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

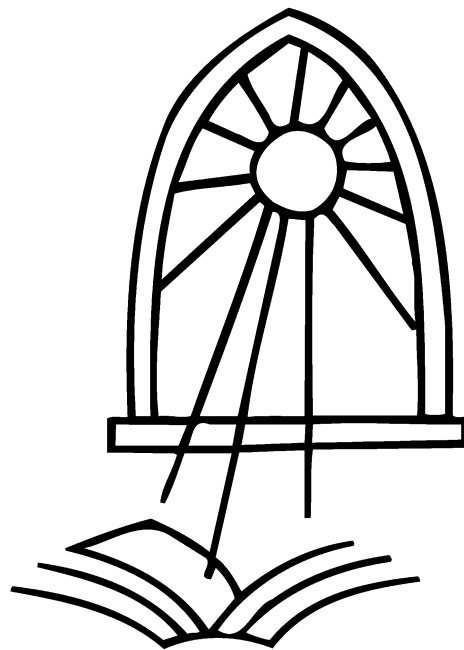
Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING - Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth should change, though the
mountains shake in the heart of the
sea;**

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God, the holy
habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall
not be moved; God will help it when
the morning dawns.

⁶**The nations are in an uproar, the**

**kingdoms totter; he utters his voice,
the earth melts.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸**Come, behold the works of the
LORD; see what desolations he has
brought on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the
earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters
the spear; he burns the shields with
fire.

¹⁰**"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING - Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray" ELW 743

1 Now to the Holy Spirit let us pray
for true faith, most needed our way:
Guide us and defend us when life is
ending
and our journey homeward is
tending.
Lord, have mercy!

2 O sweetest Love, your grace on us
bestow;
set our hearts with sacred fire aglow,
that with hearts united we love each
other,
ev'ry stranger, sister, and brother.
Lord, have mercy!

+ GOSPEL - John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
The gospel of the Lord.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray" ELW 743

3 Transcendent comfort in our ev'ry need,
help us neither scorn nor death to heed,
that we may not falter, nor courage fail
us
when the foe shall taunt and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!

4 Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious
light,
that we Jesus Christ may know aright,
clinging to our Savior, whose blood has
bought us,
who to our true homeland has brought us.
Lord, have mercy!

SERMON

Pastor Brian

+HYMN OF THE DAY - "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" ELW 517

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done. | 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally. |
| | 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life. |

+APOSTLES CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING - Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless

David Cherwein

+OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

+ *GREAT THANKSGIVING*

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+*PREFACE*

It is indeed right, our duty ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+*SANCTUS*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

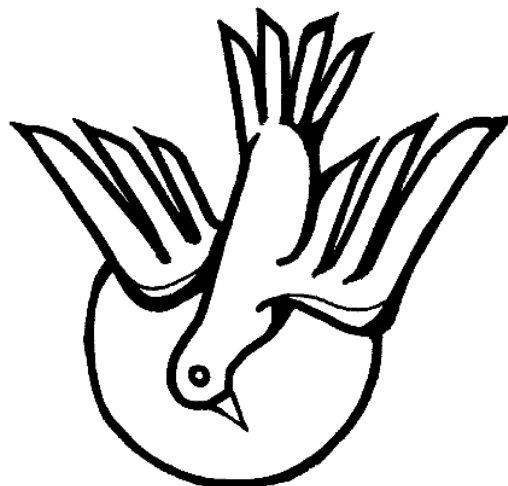
+*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE*

+*THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

+*INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.



+ **AGNUS DEI – “Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless”**

ELW 357

1 Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an off'ring,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suff'ring:
from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

2 Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an off'ring,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suff'ring:

3 Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an off'ring,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suff'ring:
from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.
Your peace be with us, O Jesus.
Amen.

COMMUNION

“O Word of God Incarnate”

ELW 514

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

ELW 515

+ **TABLE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

+CLOSING HYMN – “The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

ELW 729

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was
shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

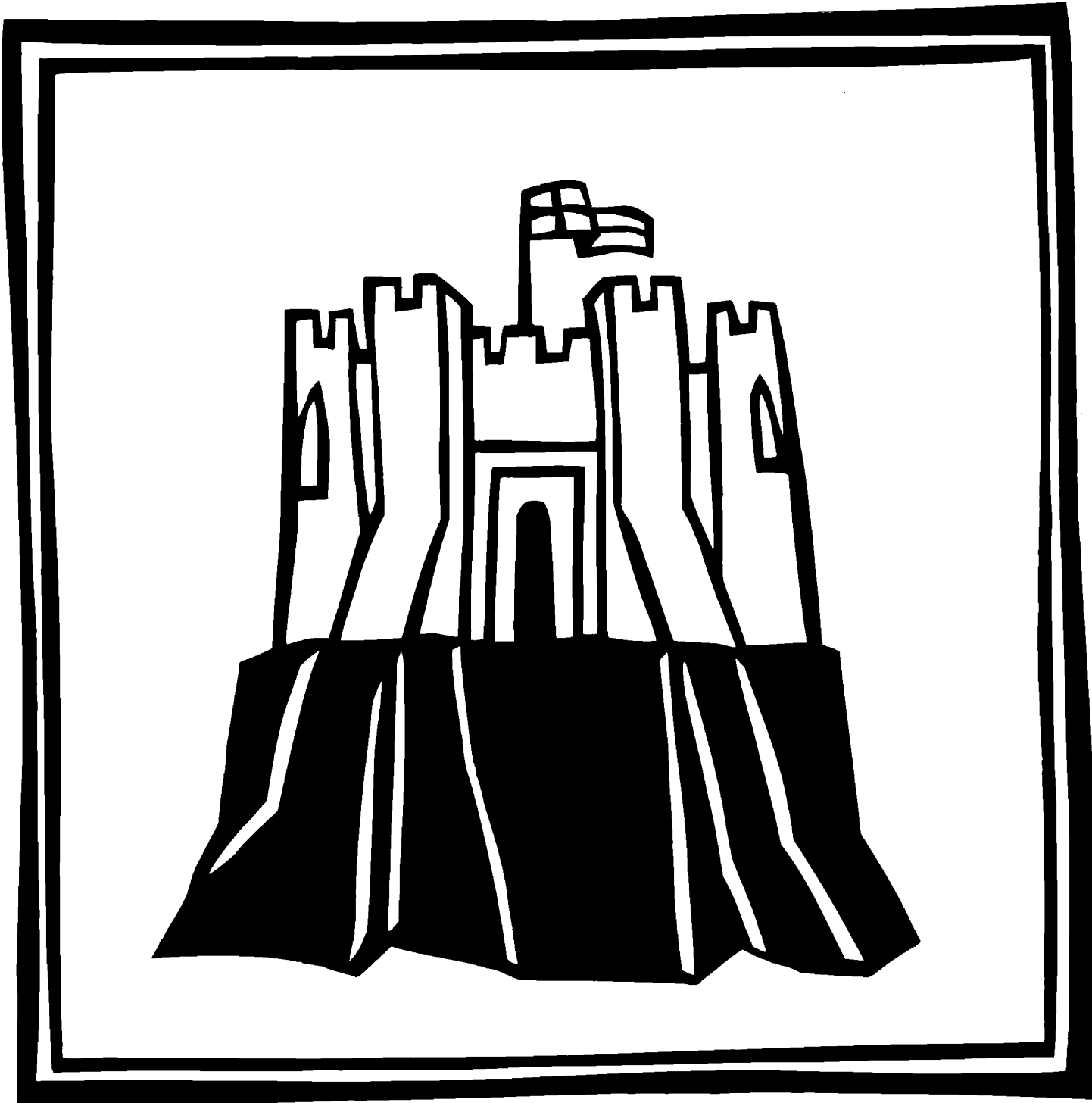
DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - “Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott”

Christian Heinrich Rinck





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