

WORSHIP KIT

*THE WORD
SHALL
STAND
FOREVER*

*A Service for
Reformation*



THE WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER

A Service for Reformation

*The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Isaiah 40:8*

W O R S H I P K I T

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THE WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER

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ABOUT “THE WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER”

Reformation reminds us that though all else passes away, the Word of the Lord shall stand forever. It is the firm foundation on which our faith is grounded. It is the solid message that says that we are saved by grace through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Scripture verses that highlight the Word of the Lord support the sermon and children’s sermon, surrounded by the well-known Reformation hymns “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word,” “Blessed Jesus at Your Word” and “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

Blank bulletins (8 1/2” x 11”) are available. Code RG3A

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NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for Reformation. Reformation reminds us that though all else passes away, the Word of the Lord shall stand forever. It is the firm foundation on which our faith is grounded. It is the solid message that says that we are saved by grace through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let the Scripture, sermon and songs of this service speak clearly to you about what God has to say to us of his love.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this special service for Reformation. Reformation reminds us that though all else passes away, the Word of the Lord shall stand forever. It is the firm foundation on which our faith is grounded. It is the solid message that says that we are saved by grace through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let the Scripture, sermon and songs of this service speak clearly to you about what God has to say to us of his love.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
Isaiah 40:8*

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let the grass wither.

C And the flowers fade.

P But the Word of the Lord

C will stand forever.

P In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.

C And the Word was God.

P In him was life.

C and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness.

C and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

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.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P O Word of Life and Light in darkness,

C **forgive us for not always listening to your Word and not always walking in your Light.**

P We listen to the lies of the devil and the world.

C **We listen to ourselves and our own selfish ambition.**

P We walk in the darkness of false prophets and poor direction.

C **We walk in the darkness of our sins and linger in their evil ways.**

P For all our dark thoughts and wayward acts,

C **have mercy on us, O Word of Life and Light of Life!**

(Please observe a time of self-examination to reflect on our sins.)

P Let the words of forgiveness from our God fill our ears, and let the Light of the love of Christ shine upon us. For the cross of Jesus drowns out every syllable of sin and the brightness of our Savior who suffered and died for us casts out every dark shadow of death and the devil. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Word Made Flesh who stands forever for us.

C **Let us live in the light of his love and by the sound of his voice. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Old Testament ReadingIsaiah 40:1-8

Epistle Reading2 Corinthians 4:5-10

Gospel Reading.....John 1:1-18

Blessed Jesus, at your Word we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P O Lord who stands firm for us, keep us strong in our faith and help us to trust you boldly in our thoughts, words and deeds. May we never waver in our connection to your Word or stray from your way for us. O sure foundation,

C **Be our rock of refuge.**

P O Lord who clings tightly to the truth, thank you for the life of Martin Luther and all the reformers who opened the path to uncovering the truth of our salvation won for us solely by Jesus through his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Give us the confidence to share the Good News of that salvation with others that they might know Jesus as the Word-Made-Flesh and Redeemer of all. O sure foundation,

C **Be our rock of refuge.**

P O Lord who is confident against all foes, strengthen us in our battles with sin and Satan and give us the support we need to remain steady from all attacks against us and against you. With you at our right hand, we shall not be moved. O sure foundation,

C **Be our rock of refuge.**

P O Lord who protects us from every danger, be our constant source of comfort and blessing when we find ourselves afraid or uncertain of what lies before us. O sure foundation,

C **Be our rock of refuge.**

P O Lord who gives us his Holy Scriptures to guide us in his way, speak to us through your Word

to provide us with the help we need to make it through every twist and turn of any given day. O sure foundation,

C Be our rock of refuge.

P O Lord who has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven, ready our hearts and minds for the time that is to come, when we will sing your praises with all your saints in light. O sure foundation,

C Be our rock of refuge. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word shall stand forever. The Lord of everlasting power bless you and keep you. The Lord make his might shine upon you. The Lord lift his glory upon you and give you peace.

C Thanks be to God.

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that has 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 overpow'r 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.

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COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/dresden-luther-monument-germany-saxony-1555609079

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let the grass wither.

C And the flowers fade.

P But the Word of the Lord

C will stand forever.

P In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.

C And the Word was God.

P In him was life.

C and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness.

C and the darkness has not overcome it.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Erhalt Uns, Herr LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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.

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.

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.

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P O Word of Life and Light in darkness,

C forgive us for not always listening to your Word and not always walking in your Light.

P We listen to the lies of the devil and the world.

C We listen to ourselves and our own selfish ambition.

P We walk in the darkness of false prophets and poor direction.

C We walk in the darkness of our sins and linger in their evil ways.

P For all our dark thoughts and wayward acts,

C have mercy on us, O Word of Life and Light of Life!

(Please observe a time of self-examination to reflect on our sins.)

Ⓟ Let the words of forgiveness from our God fill our ears, and let the Light of the love of Christ shine upon us. For the cross of Jesus drowns out every syllable of sin and the brightness of our Savior who suffered and died for us casts out every dark shadow of death and the devil. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Word Made Flesh who stands forever for us.

Ⓒ **Let us live in the light of his love and by the sound of his voice. Amen.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Dear God, thank you for the Word among us, which you make available through your Holy Scriptures, through the words of preachers and teachers like Martin Luther, and through your very Word-Made-Flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to earth to speak the Good News of salvation to all the world and to be the Word for us, sacrificing himself on the cross that words of forgiveness might be spoken over all those who believe in him. Let the words on our lips profess the name of our Savior, now and always. In his beloved name we pray. Amen.

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Needed: a Bible)

Ⓟ Happy Reformation, boys and girls. Today is a day when we celebrate the time in the Church long ago when a man named Martin Luther began telling people the Good News that the Bible tells us: that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. That means that we are not saved by anything we have done, but only by what Jesus has done for us by dying on the cross and rising again. People had not heard that Good News in a long time, so they were excited to hear it. Martin Luther wanted more and more people to hear the Good News of Jesus, so he translated the Bible into German. Then it was translated into many other languages, including English. We give thanks today that we are forgiven by our God through Jesus and we give thanks that we have the Word of God available to us to read in English so that we can read all about God's plan of salvation for us.

I have a Bible here. *(Show the Bible.)* What are some things we can do with it? *(Allow the children to respond.)* That's right! We can read it to ourselves (for those who can read) or have someone read it to us. Or (for those who can read), we can read it out loud to a brother or sister, mom or dad. We can bring a Bible to church and read along with the readers when the Scriptures are read. Or we can bring it to Sunday school to read the stories about Jesus and God's people talked about there.

The Bible is separated into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament starts at creation and goes through what happened to the people of God before Jesus was born. The New Testament starts at the birth of Jesus and tells us what happened in his life