

## COMMEMORATION OF REFORMATION, 29 OCTOBER 2023

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:27-34** The Lord's new covenant

<sup>27</sup> 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. <sup>28</sup> Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,' declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> 'In those days people will no longer say, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." <sup>30</sup> Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes – their own teeth will be set on edge. <sup>31</sup> 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to<sup>[a]</sup> them,' declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> 'This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the LORD. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, "Know the LORD," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the LORD. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'

### **PSALM 46**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. <sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. <sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. <sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields<sup>[d]</sup> with fire. <sup>10</sup> He says, 'Be still, and

know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’ <sup>11</sup>The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28** Justification by faith

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,<sup>[b]</sup> through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished <sup>26</sup> – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the ‘law’ that requires faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

## **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36** "In my word, you will know the truth"

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ <sup>33</sup> They answered him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?’ <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.