

Sunday, October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday

Bible Story: Romans 3:19-28

Bible Verse: . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:23-24

Lesson:

Do you know what reform or reformation means? The dictionary says it means to make changes to improve something.

Why do you think today is called Reformation Sunday? Do you think that this was about making changes in the church? If you think so, you would be right.

In the early 1500's, just about 500 years ago, there was a man named Martin Luther. He lived in Germany and was a priest in the Roman Catholic Church.

- Have you heard of Martin Luther?
- Do you know the name of our church?
- Do you know anything about the Roman Catholic Church?

Martin Luther was trying to be a faithful servant of God, but he felt like he was always sinning, that is not being "right" with God, not being good enough to follow the laws of the church.

He knew the Old Testament lessons, like the one from Jeremiah, when the Lord declares,

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel, . . .

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."

Jeremiah 31:33

One day when Luther was studying his Bible, he read the words from Romans, from the New Testament, which is a letter that Paul wrote to the people of Rome. There he found the passage that told him that because of Jesus, we know righteousness with God, apart from the law. It doesn't matter that we are all sinners, we are freely given God's grace.

This was very different from the Roman Catholic Church, where there were lots of rules to follow to get God's grace. Luther wanted to change the church, reform it. In the end, Luther could not reconcile his beliefs with the Roman Catholic Church, so a new church was formed. Those who followed Luther's ideas became known as Lutherans and today we celebrate Luther's Re-formation of the church, based on the idea that, even though we don't always follow all the rules, we always receive God's grace.

Activity:

Just like the year has seasons, the church has seasons and uses different colors for the different seasons and celebrations. To celebrate Reformation Sunday, the church "wears" red. The paraments on the altar and the pulpit are red and the Pastor wears a red stole.

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Here is a picture of the altar in its red “clothes” or paraments.



In the weeks before Reformation, it was the season of Pentacost. The color for the season of Pentacost is green. Here is a picture of the altar with green paraments.



The colors of the paraments will change again for All Saint’s Day and for Advent. Watch the CTS livestream services to see how the paraments change colors.

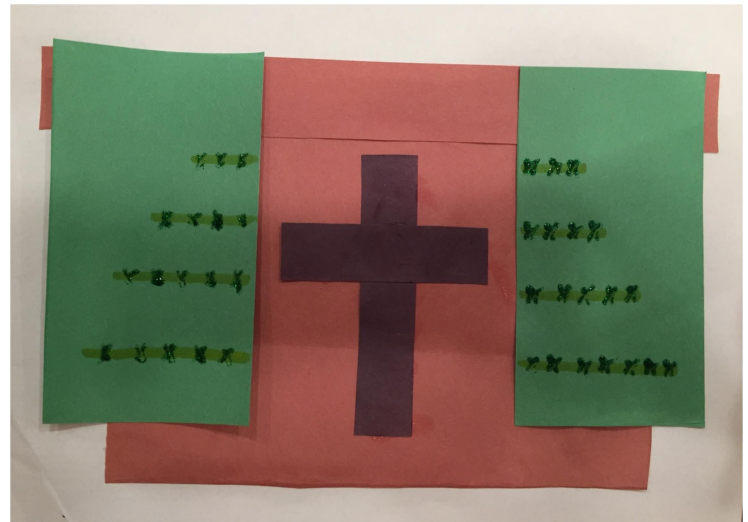
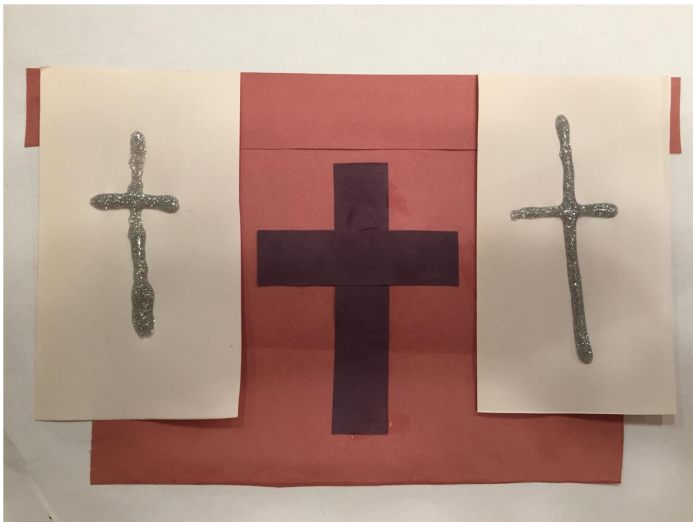
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Let's make an altar and different colored paraments.

1. Cut out an altar from brown construction paper. You can add a cross to make it look like the altar at CTS.
2. Cut out two rectangles each, from red paper, green paper, and white paper. Decorate the "paraments" if you want.
3. Attach the red paraments to the altar to be ready for Reformation Sunday. Use tape rather than glue, so that you can change the colors.



4. Next Sunday, put the white paraments on your altar for All Saint's Day. After that, use the green paraments until Advent starts.



5. You can add candles, the Bible and stand, and the communion chalices to your altar.
6. Send a picture of your altar to ctselca@gmail.com, to post on the CTS website.