



# THE ROSE PETAL

October, 2014

## A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the month of October we will be celebrating the Reformation of the Church. When we gather together on Reformation Sunday, October 26, we will most likely be singing that famous hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is our God." Dr. Martin Luther wrote this hymn in 1529. The basis for this hymn is Psalm 46.

**"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, through its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He burns the shields with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."**



Luther, like so many others, understood that in times of terror and trouble God is our fortress. He is our protection. When we sin, we can run to the Lord for Jesus endured the terror of God's anger toward sin in our place. He died upon the cross for our guilt. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus has defeated our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Now the Lord invites us to run to Him and He assures us that He will be our fortress. He will grant us an eternal protection and forgiveness when we believe and trust in Him alone for our salvation. In Christ we find safety in the heavenly fortress of glory.

God is also our fortress in our lives today. We have heard news stories of horrible terrors and persecutions directed toward Christians in many parts of the world. These can be frightening and shake our confidence. But the words of Psalm 46 are just as true and real today as they have been at any other time in history. **"God is our refuge and strength an ever present help in trouble."** The risen Lord Jesus is with us. We can find safety in Him.

The words of Psalm 46 hold true for us each day regardless of the challenges and threats we may face. In times of uncertainty, danger, conflict, or fear God is our refuge. God is our refuge when there are challenges in dealing with a child or a family member. God is our refuge when things do not always go smooth at work, at home, at church or wherever we may be. God is our refuge in times of illness and in health. He is our fortress. We can find shelter and strength in Him and what He has done for us. The words of Psalm 46 can still be trusted: **"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."**

This is true not only in times of trouble but in all times of life. When the worries of life strike, when the troubles of sin and Satan shake us, when fear seems stronger than faith, we turn to the Lord God our eternal fortress. He is our sure and certain hope. He will forgive our sin and bring us to the safety of His eternal fortress. **"Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."**