

Choir Information – Reformation 500 Festival Service

Thank you for your interest in singing in the choir that is forming for the Reformation 500 service in San Diego! This celebratory service to God's glory will be blessed by your participation as we gather to give thanks for the Reformation rediscovery of the gospel message that we share.

Here is some information on a variety of topics you will want to know ahead of time, if you'd like to participate in the choir:

DIRECTOR – Kurt Rosenbaum, principal at Arizona Lutheran Academy, is directing the choir and special music for this service.

SITE – The Reformation 500 service will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego.

REHEARSAL – The main rehearsal will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening at Reformation. This will be a vital practice. Kurt and I are optimistic that if choir singers arrive having become familiar with the songs already (read farther), rehearsal could be about an hour. Perhaps this might stretch to an hour 15 minutes. But it will not go past 8:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive with the intention of STARTING REHEARSAL AT 6:30 P.M. (i.e., please arrive about 6:20 p.m. for seating, details, etc.

Brass and instrumentalists, please be alert for subsequent communications on whether practice for just instrumental parts will be held, in addition to the general rehearsal time.

Question: "Can I sing in the choir if I am not at this rehearsal?" This practice is extremely important to attend. The choir has three anthems, plus a couple verses in the congregational hymns. It would not be advisable to miss the rehearsal. If you are coming from a distance or have special circumstances that might prevent you from attending the rehearsal, yet you'd like to try to make it work, please call or e-mail me (at the end of this note).

WARM-UP – A warm-up will also be held the next morning at 7:45 a.m. at Reformation, tentatively finished by 8:15 am. The service begins at 9:00 a.m.

MUSIC – The songs that the choir will be singing are listed here in the order that they are in the service. There will be music provided at the rehearsal for all singers. Of course, you may purchase/find, practice early with, and bring your own copies, if desired.

1. "A Mighty Fortress" (opening hymn, arr. Jeffrey Bleresch)

Concordia Publishing House Item #984246 SATB

The choir is singing v.3 of the piece, and there is a descant to add to v. 4.

2. *"God is our Refuge and Strength" (Allen Pote)* JW Pepper # 1605161
Anthem by choir. It is a well-known piece in our circles, and if you have a church choir, it might be in your files.
3. *"In Christ Alone"* Congregational hymn – Choir will sing v. 3. Not available early.
4. *"By Faith" (by Keith and Kristyn Getty, arr. Michael Lawrence)*
Choir anthem. SATB. JW Pepper #10281092.
5. *"The First Song of Isaiah" (arr. Jack Noble White)*

JW Pepper UPC: 029156165555 Publisher ID: GCMR03347

Children's Choir and Adult Choir, congregation participating. This is also a popular song at our churches. Your choir file might have this one.

PRACTICING ON YOUR OWN – IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED! You can view the song videos (except for the *"In Christ Alone"* verse) at the links listed here. Even if you don't have a copy of the music in your hand, this will familiarize you with the pieces.

- *"A Mighty Fortress"* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff4_QKwGtc
This YouTube video actually follows the choir music on the screen.
- *"God is our Refuge"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVah3Xe1gAc>
- *"By Faith"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ay3dAil4jbY>
- *"The First Song of Isaiah"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOeu2Eb7W8c>

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – The closing song, *"The First Song of Isaiah,"* will include a Children's Choir. If you have a child(ren) that will be at the conference, we'd encourage you to have them participate. Please e-mail me names and ages, so we can have an accurate count. Grade schoolers from our churches and schools in the San Diego area will form a nucleus for this group. It will be important that your child(ren) are at rehearsal on Wednesday evening. We probably will practice this piece first so that the children won't be waiting around and getting antsy.

QUESTIONS? – If you have any questions beyond this, don't hesitate to contact me! May God bless our efforts as we make plans for this anniversary service. SOLI DEO GLORIA!

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