

# SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND



## APRIL 2024

THE WORD OF LORD ENDURES  
FOREVER

VDMA - is the abbreviation of “*Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum*” - which translates to “*the word of the Lord endures forever*”. You may have seen this phrase or collection of words scribbled across many of items in the Lutheran Church or Christian book stores online and in person. Often times it is a call back to the reformation era when Martin Luther fell back on to God’s Word as the defining guide to our Christian life.

Reflecting on Easter as it is in our preverbal church calendar rearview mirror, we reflect on the upcoming Ascension of Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The victory is now won and we rejoice that Christ has been raised from the dead. As we meditate on the works of the Lord what better guide to use than God’s Word for our reflection.

The great reformer, Martin Luther, was no slouch in providing writings for the Church to use in her own meditation as she studied God’s Word. We possess many of these writings in our own language of English as well. The Psalter, or praying and singing the psalms has a long history of tradition in the Church and God’s people of ancient days.

Psalms provide us with great imagery of Christ’s victory and endurance as He embodies God’s Word incarnate.

*“The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods! Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord. For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. O you who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for*

*the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!” -Psalm 97-*

Martin Luther provides the following explanation concerning this beautiful psalm. “*The 97th psalm is a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, just as the preceding psalm was. And the significance is always this, that Christ rules and maintains this kingdom through the Gospel, through which he sends out thunder and lightning and burns His enemies and melts the mountains. That is, He brings low all holiness, all wisdom, power, and whatever is great so that they might be holy, wise, great, and powerful through Him alone. Along with these enemies and mountains, the Israelite kingdom and worship perish also, as well as all that is not Christ. For He alone shall endure, and all others pass away, as the stone in Daniel, cut from the mountains, fills the whole world and scatters everything else and makes them to nothing (Daniel 2:34). He will be the mountain filling the whole world.*”

In Christ,

*Pastor Bednash*

*The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!*  
Psalm 97:1