

# “Worship and the Next Reformation”

*“God has made our hearts and spirits happy through His only Son...He who believes this sincerely and earnestly cannot help but be happy; he must cheerfully sing and talk about this, that others might hear it and come to Christ... I, Doctor Martin Luther, truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music [and worship], which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure given to mankind by God... This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself that God has created man for the express purpose of praising and extolling God... A person who gives this some thought and yet does not regard this as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of [donkeys] and the grunting of hogs.” (Luther’s Table Talks, 13)*

**KILL-JOY AND JOY-STEALERS:** Why is “joy” so fleeting and easily disrupted?

→ *...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:2-3)*

## **PURSUIING AND CULTIVATING AND STIRRING-UP PERMANENT JOY**

→ *For the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10b.)*

→ *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)*

→ *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that your joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:9-11)*

→ *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

→ *“The fleas! Betsie, there’s no way even God can make me grateful for a flea.” ‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Give thanks in all circumstances,’ she quoted. ‘It doesn’t say, in pleasant circumstances. Fleas are part of this place where God has put us.’” And so we stood between tiers of bunks and gave thanks for fleas. It turned out that Betsie was not wrong; the fleas were a nuisance, but a blessing after all.” (The Hiding Place, Corrie Ten Boom)*

→ **Joyful worship is the fuel that thrusts us forward -- and is the NEXT Reformation!**

## **PRAYER**

*God—You’re my God! I can’t get enough of You! So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in Your joy and strength and glory. In Your generous love I am really living at last! My lips brim praises like fountains. I bless You every time I take a breath; My arms wave like banners of praise to You.”*  
(Psalm 63:1-4, MSG)

Scan the QR code or simply download the YouVersion app on your phone. Select the **More** option, then select **Events** and search “Christ Lutheran Costa Mesa” to follow the service in worship electronically.

