

W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P



Ascension Sunday

May 28, 2017

8:30 a.m.

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church

**102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063**

TEL: 610-891-0600 FAX: 610-566-7036

www.relcmedia.org

Welcome to Reformation!

A special welcome to visitors – we pray that the encounter with God in worship will nurture us in Christian faith and equip us for our life of loving service and justice in the world. Please stop at the Welcome Center to receive our welcome gift for you.

The Friendship Pads help us maintain a friendly climate and also assist us with our record-keeping. We ask everyone present to sign our Friendship Pad and pass it along to the next person in your pew. Thank you.

Children in worship are a blessing. We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps.



Worship bags (filled with coloring books and crayons) are available at the back of the sanctuary and can be taken to your seat.

A play space is also available at the back of the sanctuary with additional books and soft toys.

A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant.

All are welcome at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.



Our Prayer List includes prayer requests for a 3-week period. If continued prayers are desired, please make the request again. To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 110) or send e-mail to rlc@relcmedia.org. If you would like your prayer request to be e-mailed to the congregation, please state that in your request.

Williams Personal PA Receivers are available for use by the hearing impaired.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Ascension Sunday

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In today's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

C = Congregation

A = Assisting Minister

P = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Praeambulum

J.S Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

The assembly remembers their baptism as water is poured into the font. Worshipers may touch the water as a reminder of their baptism when they approach the altar to receive Holy Communion or when they leave the service.

P We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

C **We thank you, O God.**

P You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.
Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour
out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

C We praise you, O God.

P Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Wash away all the sin within us,
and renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Hymn No. 393

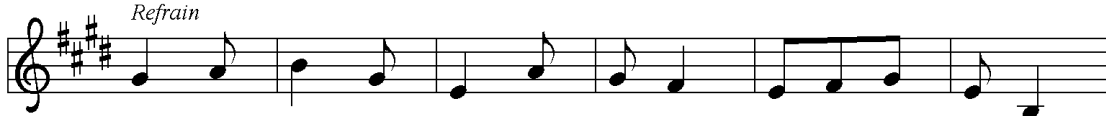
GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

The assembly is seated.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2017-18 Congregation Council

Richard Hughey, *President*
Andrew Marcus, *Secretary*

Kate Fernandez, *Vice President*
Tom Conroy, *Treasurer* (non-voting)

Emily Black
Brett Conley
Kristin Gress
Uli Neubert

Keith Bocian
Talitha D'Italia
Skip Hoffman
Walt Woerheide

Karen Chorney
Marian Filtz
Anna-Olivia Machado

from Reformation's Constitution:

The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.

- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A A reading from Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. All sing the "Alleluia" verse one time.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

After the reading has concluded:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

Pastor Alina S. Gayeuski

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come with Joy

Hymn No. 482

NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Opportunity will be provided for you to offer prayers for concerns on your heart, silently or aloud. Please conclude each prayer petition with the words, "Lord, in your mercy."

A Let us rejoice in the risen life of Christ and pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

A Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Tithes and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church

MUSICAL OFFERING

I Come With Joy

arr. Erik Flaten

SETTING THE TABLE

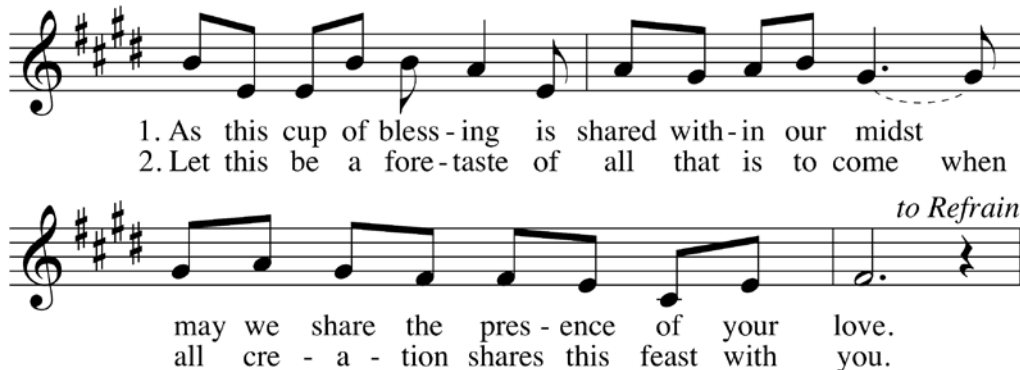
The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C **O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is in 6/8 time, the second in 3/8, and the third in 6/8. The fourth and fifth staves are in 6/8 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

☐ Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! . . . We proclaim the mystery of faith.

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ Holy God, we remember your Son, . . . His resurrection for us all.

☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Holy God, we beg for your Spirit. . . . Nourish the life of the earth.

☑ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

☐ You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three praise tomorrow, praise forever!

☑ **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☛ **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

☞ This is the feast of victory for our God!

☛ **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord! We believe and teach that Christ is present in the mystery of the sacrament of Holy Communion and that by communing with him we receive forgiveness of our sin.

Communion will be distributed by intinction – after you receive the bread, you may dip it in the chalice on the bread tray, which has grape juice, or the chalice held by the communion assistant, which has wine. Children who have not received instruction for communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to walk to communion, please let an usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available upon request to the pastor distributing the bread.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

The assembly sings the following during communion:

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
(Easter:) you broke the bonds of sin and of
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
death:
peace:
love:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

One Bread, One Body

Hymn No. 496

After all have communed, the assembly stands.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

- P** The God of life, who raised Jesus from the dead, who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth, be merciful to you and ✠ bless you, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn No. 855

DISMISSAL

- A** Called by Christ,
- C** **We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.**
- A** Go in peace. Share the good news!
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Crown Him With Many Crowns

arr. Erik Flaten

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God's People Serving in Worship Today

<i>Phone Shepherd</i>	Doris Gilmour
<i>Greeters</i>	Gary and Betsy Kamin
<i>Acolyte</i>	Katharine-Thi Koethe
<i>Crucifer</i>	Lauren Niss
<i>Lector</i>	Bob Barkhau
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Jack Walters
<i>Liturgist</i>	Deacon Beth Barkhau
<i>Ushers</i>	Skip Hoffman
	Sally Burkam
	Scott Kilpatrick
	Sally Helms
<i>Welcome Center</i>	Betsy Kamin
<i>Fellowship Time</i>	
<i>Altar Care</i>	Kimberly Marcus
<i>Flower Delivery</i>	Bocian Family
<i>Cookie Angel</i>	Carolyn Bingeman
<i>Friendship Pad</i>	Carolyn Bingeman

The Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God.

Our Mission

**Called by Christ, we
INVITE all people,
SERVE our neighbors,
BUILD a living faith.**

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Team

To contact those with an extension please call **610-891-0600** and use the listed extension number or send e-mail to the listed address.

Urgent Pastoral Care Line: 610-314-7747

All other phone calls: 610-891-0600

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long <i>Pastor</i>	ext. 108 PastorWayne@relcmedia.org
The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski <i>Pastor</i>	ext. 109 PastorAlina@relcmedia.org
Deacon Beth A. Barkhau <i>Director of Faith Engagement</i>	ext. 120 DeaconBeth@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson <i>Admin. Assistant for Finance</i>	ext. 112 rlc@relcmedia.org
Anna Guy <i>Admin. Assistant for Communications</i>	ext. 110 rlc@relcmedia.org
Pat Woerheide, RN <i>Parish Nurse</i>	home: 484-444-0424 woerheide@comcast.net
Valerie Rozek <i>Director of Music</i>	ext. 111 cell: 440-478-8163 varozek@gmail.com
Erik Flaten <i>Director of Contemporary Music</i>	cell: 509-528-8979 erik.flaten@relcmedia.org
Liz Hazlett <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	home: 610-447-0227 liz.hazlett13@gmail.com
Dick Hughey <i>Council President</i>	rkhughey@verizon.net

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.