

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



**The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Eco Sunday  
April 21, 2024  
8:30 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church  
102 West Rose Tree Road  
Media, Pennsylvania 19063  
[www.relcmmedia.org](http://www.relcmmedia.org)**

# Welcome to Reformation!

**Land acknowledgement** – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**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.

**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. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**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 Christ is present in the bread and wine. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.

**Our Prayer List** can be found at [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send an e-mail to [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).

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

**Large print bulletins are available from an usher.**



**Scan to give online through our secure platform or through Venmo.**

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

## April 21, 2024 · 8:30 am

**C** = Congregation

**A** = Assisting Minister

**P** = Presiding Minister

## GATHERING

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

*PRELUDE*

*Prelude on “Brother James’ Air”*

Searle Wright

*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.

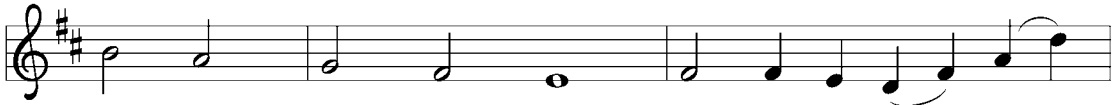
**C** **We praise you, O God.**

**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.**



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- 5 He lives to bless me with his love;  
 he lives to plead for me above;  
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;  
 he lives to help in time of need.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
 he lives my mansion to prepare;  
 he lives to bring me safely there.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
 he lives and loves me to the end;  
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;  
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!  
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
 what joy this blest assurance gives:  
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

**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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**C Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

*FIRST READING*

Acts 4:5-12

**A** A reading from Acts.

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**A** A reading from first John.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



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*

☞ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*After the reading has concluded:*

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*SERMON ON THE STEPS*

*SERMON*

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

*Silence for reflection.*

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



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.



# BAPTISM

*God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.*

**Dante Noah Neri**

- P** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. . . .

*After the candidate is presented for baptism and parents make promises on behalf of the candidate for baptism, the assembly is addressed:*

- P** People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for them in their new life in Christ?  
**C** **We do.**

*After the parents and sponsors (on behalf of the candidate for baptism) renounce the forces that defy God, the assembly joins them in professing the faith:*

- P** Do you believe in God the Father?  
**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**C** **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*The candidate is baptized with water, receives prayer with the laying on of hands, is anointed with oil, and presented with a candle*


*The assembly welcomes the newly baptized:*

- P** Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*ACCLAMATION                      You Belong to Christ                      (sung by the assembly twice)*



You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*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*

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **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*

*Shepherd of My Heart*  
Chancel Choir

arr. John Purifoy

*SETTING THE TABLE*

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

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.

*OFFERING PRAYER*

**A** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,

**C** **ruler of heaven and earth. 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*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** 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!

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

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

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

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

**C** Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

**P** You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three . . . . praise tomorrow, praise forever!

**C** 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:

Final Stanza



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

*Eat This Bread*

Hymn No. 472

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.**

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*

*TABLE BLESSING*

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

**C** **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

**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.**





1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

*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*

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

arr. Paul Manz

**To see the list of today's worship volunteers,  
you can go to [relcmedia.org/worshipteam](https://relcmedia.org/worshipteam),  
scan here:**



**or visit the Worship Team  
information stand in the lobby.**

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## **OUR MISSION**

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

## **WELCOME**

Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

# 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.

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski  
*Lead Pastor*

ext. 109  
PastorAlina@relcmedia.org

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan  
*Pastor*

ext. 108  
PastorEileen@relcmedia.org

Vicar Paula Estornell  
*Deacon Intern*

VicarPaula@relcmedia.org

Christine Corson  
*Senior Administrative Assistant*

ext. 112  
rlc@relcmedia.org

Andrea Menta  
*Administrative Assistant*

ext. 110  
rlc@relcmedia.org

Valerie Rozek  
*Director of Music*

cell: 440-478-8163  
varozek@relcmedia.org

Erik Flaten  
*Director of Contemporary Music*

cell: 509-528-8979  
erik.flaten@relcmedia.org

Liz Hazlett  
*Children's Choir Director*

lizhazlett@relcmedia.org

John Grantland  
*Council President*

president@relcmedia.org

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm  
Friday, Closed