

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



**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Eco Sunday
April 21, 2024
11:00 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
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.

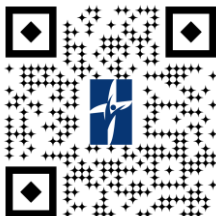
A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

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. 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.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 · 11:00 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Here I Am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☒ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☒ **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.

☒ In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ 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.

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

☒ **We thank you, O God.**

☒ 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.

☒ **We praise you, O God.**

☒ 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.

☒ **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

The River

Verse 1 **I know a place where we can go
To lay the troubles down eating your soul
I know a place where mercy flows
Take the stains make you cleaner than snow**

Pre-Chorus **Like a tide it is rising up deep inside
A current that moves and makes ya come alive
Living water that brings the dead to life
Oh oh**

Chorus **We're goin' down to the river Down to the river
Down to the river to pray Let's get washed by the water
Washed by the water And rise up in amazing grace
Let's go down down down to the river You will leave changed
Let's go down down down to the river Never the same**

Verse 2 **I've seen it move in my own life
Took me from dusty roads into Paradise
All of my dirt all of my shame
Drowned in the streams that have made me born again**

Pre-Chorus **Like a tide it is rising up deep inside
A current that moves and makes ya come alive
Living water that brings the dead to life
Oh oh**

Chorus **We're goin' down to the river Down to the river
Down to the river to pray Let's get washed by the water
Washed by the water And rise up in amazing grace
Let's go down down down to the river You will leave changed
Let's go down down down to the river Never the same**

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GREETING

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

☛ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ 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

☛ **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

☞ A reading from Acts.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

A A reading from first John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing
you; We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im-part.

☞ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.

Verse 1 **My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross**

Verse 2 **My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross**

Chorus **I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone**

Verse 3 **As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross**

Verse 4 **I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross**

Chorus

Verse 5 **Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the cross**

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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

In Christ Alone

SETTING THE TABLE

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



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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.

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

Crowder, Dodson, Maher, and Waldrop
Erik Flaten

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly

7 Ho - ly Heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry, your

12 glo - ry. Bless-ed is He who comes comes in the na - me of the

16 Lo - rd. Ho - sa - na in the high - est._____

- ☐ 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.:

Behold the Lamb of God

Matt Maher

Vocals

And now we see Your sac - ri-fice, the great - est gift, our
great - est prize. Be-hold the Lamb of God, be-hold the lamb of
God, who takes a-way the sins of the world.

COMMUNION SONG As the Deer

Verse 1 **As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee**

Chorus **You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee**

Verse 3 **I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye**

Chorus

Verse 1 **As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee**

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After all have communed, the assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

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

☞ Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ 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.

☞ 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

Give Praise to Jesus

Verse 1 **Give praise to Jesus**
For He is the King
Let your voices ascend to His throne
On the wings of the music
Let your hearts be raised
And in one accord make His praise known

Chorus **Singing hallelu hallelu**
Hallelu hallelujah
Singing hallelu hallelu
Hallelu hallelujah

Verse 2 **Lift up His banner**
And greet Him with praise
Our Deliverer has set us free
Bow before Him adore Him
And worship His name
There is no other God like He

Chorus

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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!

Instrumental Musicians

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Joe McGuth, Drums

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



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

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.

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Friday, Closed