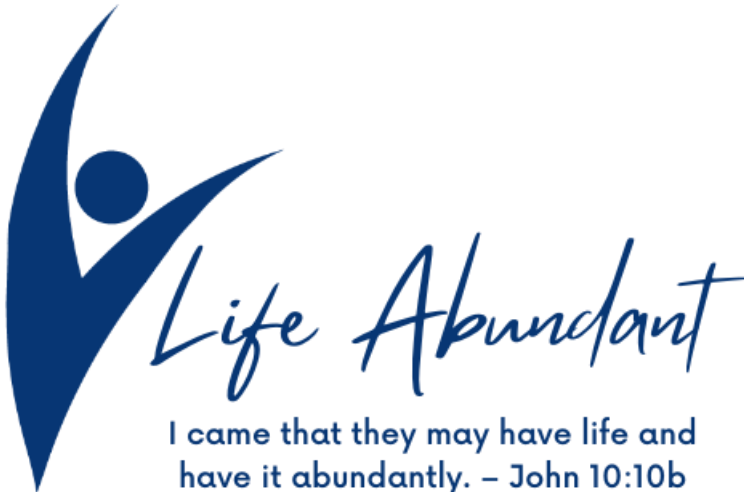


**W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P**



I came that they may have life and  
have it abundantly. – John 10:10b

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 1, 2024**  
**8:30 am**

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

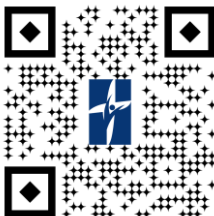
**A professionally staffed nursery** is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**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.**

# Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## September 1, 2024 · 8:30 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

## GATHERING

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

*PRELUDE*

*Variations on DUNDEE*

Stephen Gabrielsen

*WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

☒ This is the day that the Lord has made.

☒ **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

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

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☒ Most merciful God,

☒ **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

☒ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

### 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 God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## *AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION*

**P** Friends in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life.

**C** **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

# WORD

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

## *FIRST READING*

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

**A** A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

James 1:17-27

**A** A reading from James.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. <sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*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 Alina Gayeuski

*Silence for reflection.*

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



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
 let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

*APOSTLES' CREED*

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

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. 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** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

- A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

- A** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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*

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

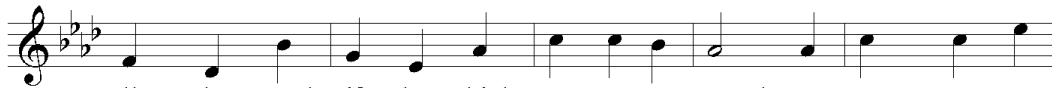
arr. John Purifoy

## SETTING THE TABLE

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



1. Oh, what shall I ren-der in thanks to my Lord For  
2. My hands take the cup of sal - va - tion you give; I'll



all the good gifts by which I am re - stored? No trea - sure I  
praise you, O God, for as long as I live. My thanks will rise



ren - der could ev - er re - pay God's mer - cy and faith - ful - ness  
up as I call on your name. With all of your pe - ople your



new ev - ry day.  
good - ness pro - claim.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. God of all creation,

**C** all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in 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:



Ho-ly Ho-ly Ho - ly\_\_ Ho - ly God of pow-er God of\_\_  
might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Bless'd is he who  
comes in God's name. Sing ho-san-na in the high\_\_\_\_ est,  
sing ho - san - na at the\_\_\_\_ sight.

- ☐ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer...

Through him all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

- ☑ **Amen.**

### *LORD'S PRAYER*

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

- ☑ **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

☐ The gifts of God for the people of God.

☑ **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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**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. Generous God, we give you thanks that again this day you have opened wide your hands and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing your compassionate heart, may we be blessed and given to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING

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

*BLESSING*

**P** Almighty and merciful God + bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

**C Amen.**



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

DISMISSAL

**A** Called by Christ,

**C** We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

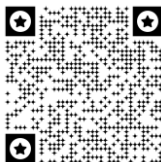
**C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

J. Bert Carlson

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

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## Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Team

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