



# *Beloved* Community

Beloved, let us love one another, because  
love is from God. - 1 John 4:7

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

November 17, 2024 | 8:30 am

Thanks Living Sunday

# Welcome to Reformation!

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

**Welcome!** First time visitors are invited to stop by our welcome center in the lobby. All are invited to **check in** with us using the friendship pads in your row or online at [relcmedia.org/hello](http://relcmedia.org/hello).

**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 recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**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. A Pray Ground space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. Worship Bags can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby. A family restroom is located on the lower level.

**All are welcome at the table** where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
  - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
  - Wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

**Our Prayer List** can be found at [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, [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.**

# Gathering

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\*Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are indicated in bold

## Prelude

The Ash Grove

setting, Dale Wood

## 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\*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

[Silence is kept for reflection]

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Reform us to be a church empowered by your love, acting for justice and seeking the healing of your whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# Gathering Song\*

## Come, Ye Thankful People Come

Hymn 693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

# 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. Almighty God our Parent, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Word

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### First Reading

Joel 2:21-27

A reading from the Joel.

<sup>21</sup> Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!

<sup>22</sup> Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup> O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. <sup>24</sup> The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup> You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. <sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from first Timothy.

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation\*



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*

## **Gospel\***

Matthew 6:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon on the Steps**

**Sermon**

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

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

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.



## **Apostles' Creed\***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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\***

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 prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

[The prayers conclude:]

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **Peace\***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

[The people greet one another with "Peace be with you" and a sign of Christ's peace.]

# Meal

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## Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



## Musical Offering

Give Thanks  
Chancel Choir

Anne Krentz Organ

# Setting the Table\*

## 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\*

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving\*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 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!

Blessed are you, . . . as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night . . . remembrance of me.

## Lord's Prayer\*

Joining our hearts and voices, 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God!**

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
  - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
  - Wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

## Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace;
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love;



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Song

Eat This Bread

Hymn 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.**

## **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. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending**

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### **Blessing\***

God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen.**



# Sending Song\*

## For the Fruit of All Creation

Hymn 563



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## Dismissal\*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Wilbur Held

**Today's Worship Team**  
[relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam)



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## **Welcome to Reformation!**

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