



# *Beloved* Community

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

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

February 23, 2025 | 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

# 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
  - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
  - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

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

## 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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The boundless riches of Christ are the gift of God's grace to all people. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I 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.**

## **Gathering Song\***

## Dancing on the Waves

Verse 1      **I'm standing at your door  
My heart is calling yours  
Come fall into my arms  
You're weary from it all  
Been running for too long  
I'm here to bring you home**

Chorus        **I'm reaching out I'll chase you down  
I dare you to believe How much I love you now  
Don't be afraid I am your strength  
We'll be walking on the water Dancing on the waves**

Verse 2      **Look up and lift your eyes  
The future's open wide  
I have great plans for you  
Your past is dead and gone  
Your healing has begun  
I'm making all things new**

Chorus

Bridge        **I set every star into place  
So you would remember my name  
I made it all for you  
But you are my masterpiece  
You are the reason I sing  
This is my song for you**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 7135561 Andrew Bergthold | Ed Cash | Franni Cash | Kyle Briskin | Martin Cash | Scott Cash © 2019 Angie Feel Good Songs; Bay19; Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Neon District Music; Scott Cash Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 769144

## 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 Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

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### First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from first Corinthians.

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation\*

*vocals*

Word of God, en - throned, dwell in  
us for-ev-er more. Love has come to show the way.  
Hal-le - lu\_\_\_\_ jah, peace be with\_\_\_\_  
us. Love has come to show\_\_\_\_ the way.

## **Gospel\***

Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon on the Steps**

**Sermon**

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

## Hymn of the Day\*

Graves into Gardens

Verse 1      **I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Vain empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love**

Chorus        **Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You**

Verse 2      **I'm not afraid to show You my weakness   My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all   And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain   Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place   Your mercy and grace won't find me again**

Chorus

Bridge 1     **You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can X2**

Bridge 2     **You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can X2**

Chorus

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## **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\***

Called to be light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

[The prayers conclude:]

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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

## Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



## Musical Offering

We Will Rise

Gungor, Fielding, Arndt

## Setting the Table\*



We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise in - to the house of the



Lord; we bring the sac - ri - fice of praise in - to the



house of the Lord. And we of - fer up to



you the sac - ri - fic - es of thanks - giv - ing; and we



of - fer up to you the sac - ri - fic - es of joy.

## Offering Prayer\*

Let us pray. Merciful God,  
**receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.**  
**Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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

Maher  
Flaten

Vocals

D Bm7 A#m A G D

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts.

G D A bm

5 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-

G maj7 D/A A sus D G D

7 san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the

A bm G maj7 D/A A bm D D/F#

10 name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Ho-

G maj7 D/A A D

13 san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn. It features a vocal line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a time signature of 12/8. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' Above the first line, guitar chords D, Bm7, A#m, A, G, and D are indicated. Below the first line, chords G, D, A, and bm are shown. Below the second line, chords G maj7, D/A, A sus, D, G, and D are shown. Below the third line, chords A, bm, G maj7, D/A, A, bm, D, and D/F# are shown. Below the fourth line, chords G maj7, D/A, A, and D are shown. The score ends with a double bar line at the end of the final line.

Blessed are you, . . . both now and forever.

## 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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

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

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.

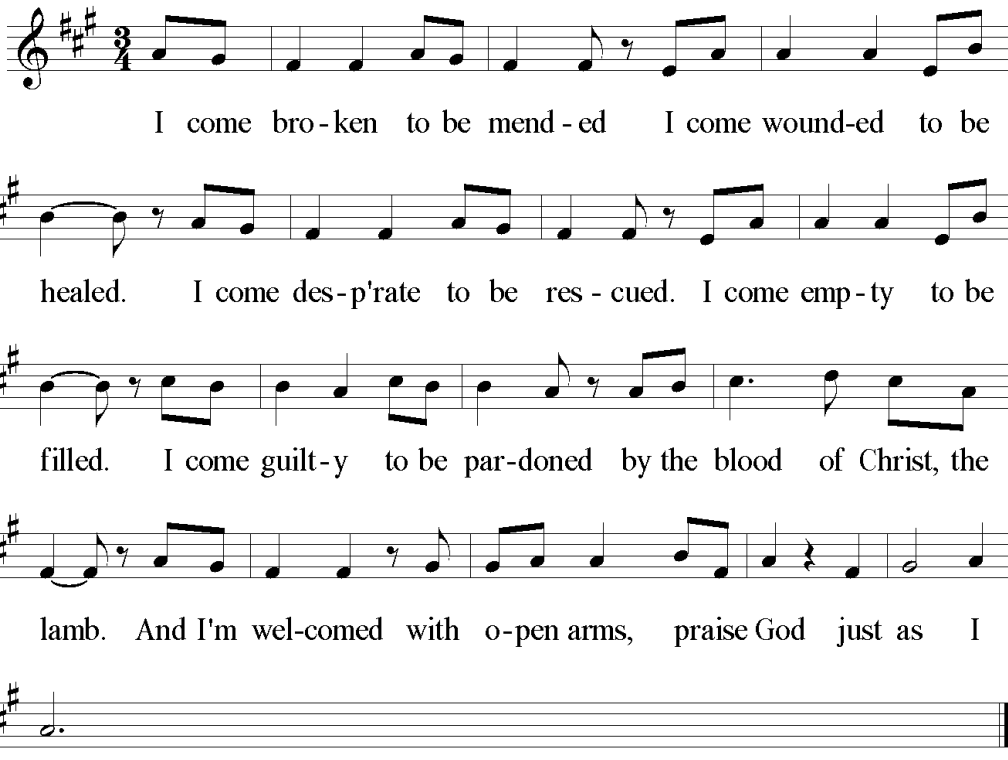
[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

## Lamb of God

Travis Cottrell

$\text{♩} = 73$

Vocals



I come bro-ken to be mend-ed I come wound-ed to be  
4 healed. I come des-p'rate to be res-cued. I come emp-ty to be  
8 filled. I come guilt-y to be par-doned by the blood of Christ, the  
12 lamb. And I'm wel-comed with o-pen arms, praise God just as I  
17 am.

## Communion Song

## Every Promise

- Verse 1      **From the breaking of the dawn To the setting of the sun  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
Words of power strong to save That will never pass away  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
For Your covenant is sure And on this I am secure  
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word**
- Verse 2      **When I stumble and I sin Condemnation pressing in  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
You are faithful to forgive That in freedom I might live  
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
Guilt to innocence restored You remember sins no more  
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**
- Verse 3      **When I'm faced with anguished choice I will listen for Your voice  
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
Through this dark and troubled land  
You will guide me with Your hand  
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
And You've promised to complete Ev'ry work begun in me  
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**
- Verse 4      **Hope that lifts me from despair Love that casts out ev'ry fear  
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
Not forsaken not alone For the Comforter has come  
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word  
Grace sufficient grace for me Grace for all who will believe  
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**

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## 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. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending

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### Blessing\*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**



## **Sending Song\***

## Glorious Day

Verse 1      **I was buried beneath my shame  
Who could carry that kind of weight  
It was my tomb 'til I met You**

Verse 2      **I was breathing but not alive  
All my failures I tried to hide  
It was my tomb 'til I met You**

Chorus      **('Cause when) You called my name (and)  
I ran out of that grave  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day  
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day**

Verse 3      **Now Your mercy has saved my soul  
Now Your freedom is all that I know  
The old made new Jesus when I met You**

Chorus

Bridge      **I needed rescue my sin was heavy  
But chains break at the weight of Your glory  
I needed shelter I was an orphan  
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven  
When I was broken You were my healing  
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing  
I have a future my eyes are open**

Chorus

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## Dismissal\*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Instrumental Musicians

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

## 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.



<b>The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski</b> , Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
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**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED