



Beloved Community

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

Reformation Lutheran Church

May 18, 2025 | 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

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. To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, rlc@relcmedia.org.

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

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Gathering

*Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are indicated in bold

Prelude

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*

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 (Repeat Bridge)**

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 God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

A reading from Acts.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing

6
you; We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im - part.

Gospel*

John 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

Hymn of the Day*

Thrive

Verse 1 **Here in this worn and weary land
Where many a dream has died
Like a tree planted by the water
We never will run dry**

Pre-Chorus **So living water flowing through
God we thirst for more of You
Fill our hearts and flood our souls
With one desire**

Chorus **Just to know You and to make You known
We lift Your name on high
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive**

Verse 2 **Into Your Word we're digging deep
To know our God's heart
Into the world we're reaching out
To show them who You are**

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

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Welcoming New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Friends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

[Each new member responds individually:]

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give you thanks for our new members, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. **Amen.**

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Prayers of Intercession*

Let us rejoice in the risen life of Christ and pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

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.

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

Promises

Maverick City Music
and Naomi Raine

Setting the Table*



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*

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

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:

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, you alone are holy ... with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness ... into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son ... with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

We pray for the gift of your spirit ... in your church, without end.

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!

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
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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

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

Will We Ever Rise (Broken People)

Verse 1 **Will we ever rise will we ever rise above the fear
Can we learn to see the need can we share humanity
I can see another day come**

Chorus **Broken people we can be made whole
We can be made whole we can be made whole
As we lay down our weapons open up our hearts
Love is breaking us
Love remaking us**

Verse 2 **Will we ever rise will we ever rise above the pain
Can we learn another way forgive as You forgave
I can see another day come**

Chorus

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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. 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

Blessing*

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.
Amen.

Sending Song*

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Verse 1 **It all comes down to this
What you require of me
Love my neighbor as myself You above all things**

Chorus **Act justly love mercy walk humbly With You God
In all things in all ways walk humbly With You God**

Verse 2 **It all comes down to this
To be Your hands and feet
Good news to all the world The truth will set us free**

Chorus

Bridge **It's beauty for ashes It's mourning to dancing
It's closer and closer The Kingdom of heaven (repeat)**

Verse 3 **Years from now we'll see
The fruit our hands have sown
Faith just like a seed The only way it grows**

Chorus

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Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Instrumental Musicians

Erik Flaten, Piano

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Jack Burdwood, Drummer

Today's Worship Team

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