

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

# **Reformation Lutheran Church**

June 1, 2025 | 8:30 am Ascension 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.

**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 <u>Pray Ground</u> space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. <u>Worship Bags</u> can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. <u>A professionally staffed nursery</u> 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** 

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Robert A. Hobby

#### **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\***

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn 855



- 1 Crown him with man y crowns, the Lamb up on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir gin's Son, the God in car nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po ten tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn: whose arm those crim-son rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. strife for those he came to save. vic - to - rious in the and rose of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly cre - a - tor sub - lime.



fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem, bear No an gels in the sky can ful - ly that sight, His glo ries now we sing. who died and rose on high. All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



thy match-less king through all and hail him as e - ter - ni - ty. the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem. but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys-ter-ies so bright. who died. e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die. thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## **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, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## **Graduate Recognition and Blessing**

## Word

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

[Luke writes:] 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

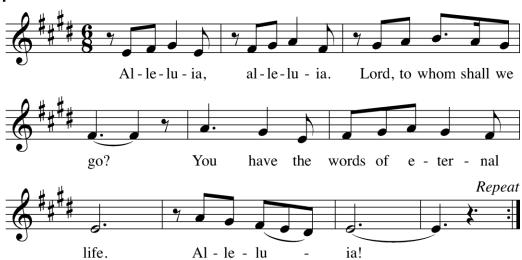
A reading from Revelation.

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation\***



Gospel\* Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Sermon on the Steps**

Sermon

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

#### Hymn of the Day\*

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Hymn 655



- Son of God, e - ter - nal Say-ior, source of life and 1 truth and grace. live.
- you, Lord, have lived for oth ers, so may we for oth - ers
- Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
  - God. e ter nal Say-ior, source of Son life and truth and grace.



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race, have your gifts been grant-ed; free-ly may your ser - vants give. Free - lv strife and pas-sion, bid its cru-el dis - cords cease. the storm of Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



our head, who, throned in glo-ry, for your own will ev plead: vou er Yours the gold and yours the sil-ver, yours the wealth of land sea; Byyour pa-tient years of toil-ing, by your si-lent hours of pain, your will-ing that your peo-ple should be by your pray-ing, by one.



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need. we but stew-ards of your boun-ty held in sol - emn trust will be. quench our fe-vered thirst of plea-sure, stem our self - ish greed of oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done. grant,

## **Installation of Congregation Council**

#### 2025-26 Congregation Council

John Grantland, *President* Laura Reiter, *Vice President* 

Chase Perry, Secretary Marian Filtz, Treasurer

Jamie AndersonEvie FernandezKristen ForsterEric HathawayLindsay LightonGabby Parker

Jameson Troutman

## **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.]

## Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]

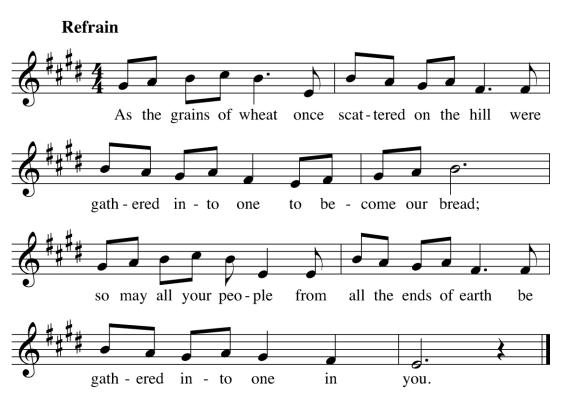


**Musical Offering** 

Children of the Heavenly Father

setting, Anthony Giamanco

## **Setting the Table\***



## 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.

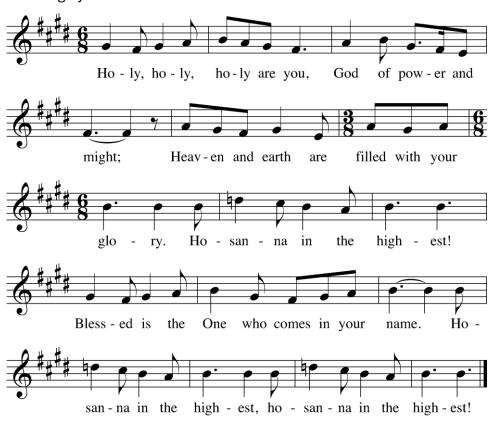
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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!

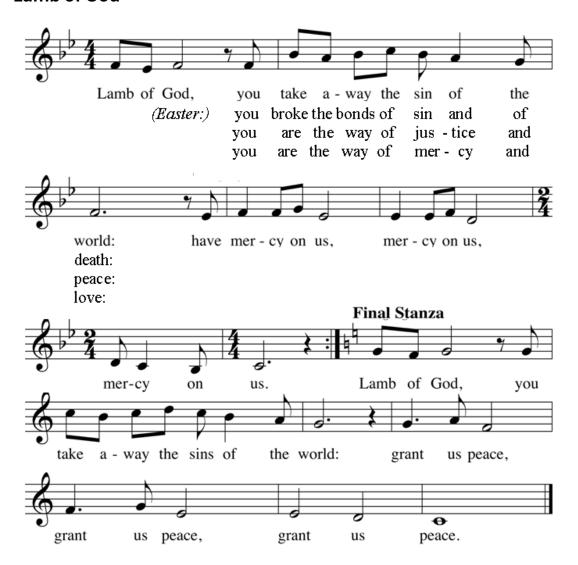
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[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

## **Lamb of God**



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

#### Refrain

In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever. In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

- 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us. Know the grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here.
- 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us. We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified.

## **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 of Communion\***

Let us pray. Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our 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\* In Christ There is No East or West Hymn 650

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis ci ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



of love through-out but one com - mu - ni - ty the whole wide earth. bind - ing hu - man-kind. his gold - en cord close ser - vice is the All chil - dren of liv - ing God are sure - ly kin the Christ-ly souls are all him through-out the whole wide earth. one in

#### 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!

**Postlude** 

Glory to God, We Give You Thanks

J. Wayne Kerr

## **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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