

# **Reformation Lutheran Church**

September 14, 2025 | 11:00 am Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

#### **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.

**Worship is livestreamed** and recorded. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the balcony or speak to a pastor.

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

These Are the Days

Ingram, Daigle, Elizondo and Hemby

#### **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\***

These Are the Days

Verse 1 **People out there** 

People out there

Let go of your cares

Turn your cries into loud hallelujahs

This is what we came for

Pre-Chorus 1 Leave all your worries behind

We know the future's burning bright

This is the great jubilation

This is what He came for What He came for

Chorus These are the days These are the days

These are the days We've been dreaming of Don't look away 'Cause these are the days

These are the days Better get 'em while they come

We thought we'd never see the sun Through the dark skies

But all the signs are saying it's looking up These are the days These are the days

These are the days We've been dreaming of

Verse 2 **Open your eyes** 

Open your ears

I'm telling you why

You'll see heaven inhabit our praises

This is what we came for

Pre-Chorus 2 Singing the song of paradise

Believing the good news is alive

This is the great jubilation

This is what we came for What He came for

#### Chorus

CCLI Song # 7213292 Jason Ingram | Lauren Daigle | Mike Elizondo | Natalie Hemby © 2023 Centricity Songs; Pubalicious; Be Essential Songs; My Magnolia Music; Remaining portion is unaffiliated For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

## **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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Word

# First Reading Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " 9 The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' "14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

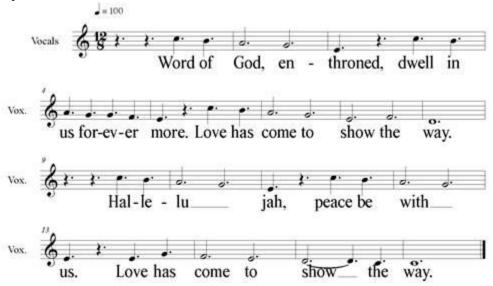
A reading from Timothy.

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation\***



Gospel\* Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ¹ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁵ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁶ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

# Sermon on the Steps

#### Sermon

## **Blessing of Hands**

Through Baptism we are called to serve and love one another and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work with our hands in the world.

As we live in community with God and one another

May our hands be instruments of peace and love

When a stranger is in our midst

May our hands extend a welcome

Where there is injustice in the world and in our communities

May our hands create hope and healing

Wherever there is sorrow, sickness and suffering

May our hands embrace the broken and offer prayers

Let us pray. Holy God, may we be reminded whatever the need, large or small, you are at work through our hands. May we serve generously, lovingly, and faithfully.

Amen.

Friends in Christ, God is at work. God is working through us, in us, and by our hands. Will you look to Jesus as our example in freely serving others with love, compassion and humility?

We will and we ask God to help us.

[Worshipers are invited to go to one of the "Blessing Stations" to receive a blessing and anointing on the backs of their hands. There are four stations – two in the front and two in the back of the Sanctuary. Ushers will direct you to one of the stations.

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

- Verse 1
- God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- Verse 2
- God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- Verse 3
- God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- Verse 4
- God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.

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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\***

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

[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.

## Blessing of the Prayer Shawls\*

#### 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, scan to give online, or text 844-628-3176 with the amount you wish to give.]



#### **Musical Offering**

Gratitude

Hastings, Lake and Bowe

# Setting the Table\*



## 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.

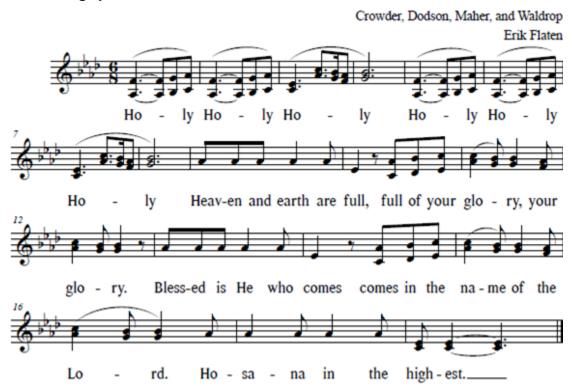
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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
  - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
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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**



#### **Communion Song** Will We Ever Rise

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. 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**

# **Blessing\***

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

**Sending Song\*** Your Grace is Enough

Verse 1 Great is Your faithfulness O God

You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart

You lead us by still waters into mercy

And nothing can keep us apart

Pre-Chorus (So) remember Your people

Remember Your children

Remember Your promise O God

Chorus Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2 **Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob** 

You use the weak to lead the strong

You lead us in the song of Your salvation

And all Your people sing along

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Chorus 2 Yeah Your grace is enough

Heaven reaches out to us Your grace is enough for me God I sing Your grace is enough

I'm covered in Your love

Your grace is enough for me for me

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#### 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.

# **Today's Worship Team**

relcmedia.org/worshipteam



#### Instrumental Musicians

Erik Flaten, Piano Matthew Murphy, Guitar Michael Hagarman, Bass Jack Burdwood, Drums

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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.



**The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski,** Lead Pastor PastorAlina@relcmedia.org

ext. 109

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan, Pastor PastorEileen@relcmedia.org

ext. 108

Christine Corson, Operations Manager ccorson@relcmedia.org

ext. 112

Andrea Menta, Administrative Assistant amenta@relcmedia.org

ext. 110

Valerie Rozek, Director of Music varozek@relcmedia.org

440-478-8163

Erik Flaten, Director of Contemporary Music erik.flaten@relcmedia.org

509-528-8979

John Grantland, Council President president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | relcmedia.org

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