

# **Reformation Lutheran Church**

September 7, 2025 | 8:30 am Thirteenth 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** Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

setting, Lynn L. Petersen

Call to Worship

Come, Gather Chancel Choir Mark Patterson

#### **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.

## Verse 1 – All Verse 2 – Upper voices Verse 3 – Lower voices Verse 4 - All



- Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat utes still!
- 2 Or der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin cere;
- 3 As sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light-ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will! let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear. and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep. nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## **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. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

## Installation of Christian Education Leaders

## **First Reading**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>15</sup> "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

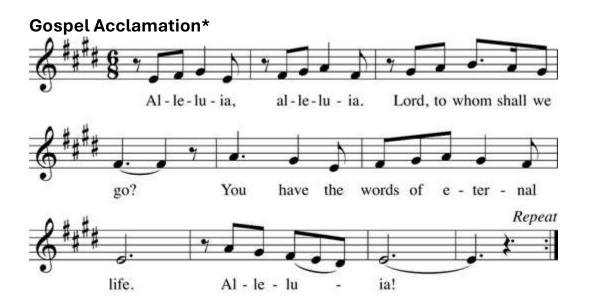
Thanks be to God.

A reading from Philemon.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. 7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. <sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



**Gospel\*** Luke 14:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

### **Sermon on the Steps**

Blessing of the Backpacks

#### Sermon

#### Pastor Alina Gayeuski



take my mo-ments and my days; take my feet and let them be take my lips and let them be take my in - tel - lect, and use let them flow in cease-less praise. swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. filled with mes - sag - es from thee. ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

  Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

## **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.

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



**Musical Offering** 

Take Up Your Cross Chancel Choir arr. Anthony Giamanco

## **Setting the Table\***

### Refrain



## 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.

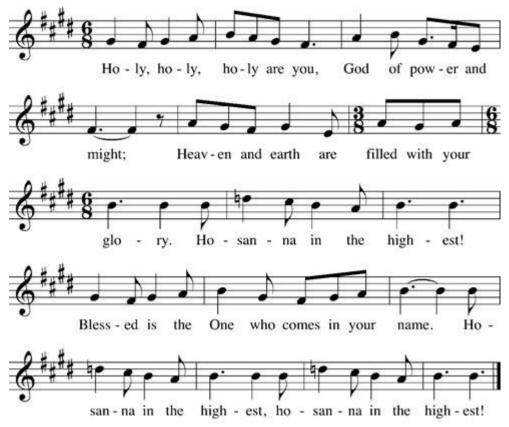
Lift up your hearts.

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!

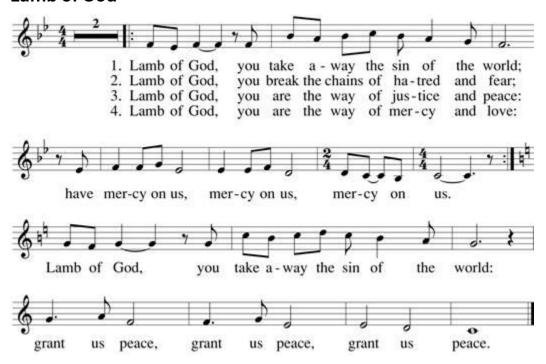
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- 1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
- 2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
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Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

### **Lamb of God**



## **Communion Song**

Here is Bread

Hymn 483

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. 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 of Communion\*

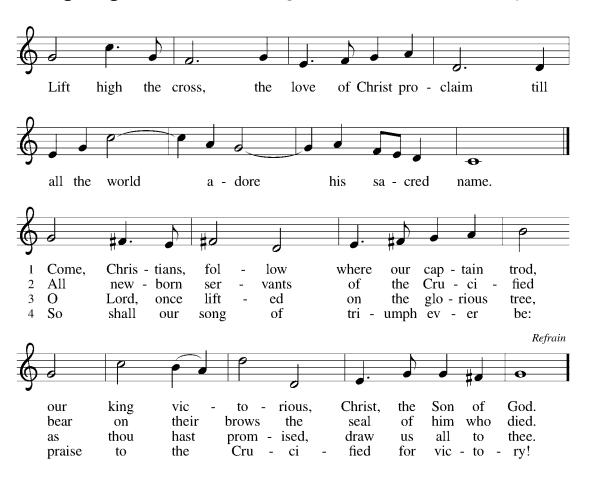
Let us pray. Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to those who are homebound. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life.

Amen.

# Sending

## Blessing\*

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



#### 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** Royal Oak Keith Kolander

**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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