



Reformation Lutheran Church

September 20, 2026 | 11:00 am

Seventeenth 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 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.

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

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*

Praise

Verse 1 I'll praise in the valley Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water My enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to

Chorus 1 Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul

Verse 2 I'll praise when I feel it And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout That brings Jericho down

Pre-Chorus As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to

Chorus 2 Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside Praise the Lord oh my soul

Bridge I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You
(Repeat bridge)

Chorus 3 Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside I won't be quiet
My God is alive How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

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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 and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

♩ = 100

Vocals

Word of God, en - throned, dwell in

5

Vox.

us for - ev - er more. Love has come to show the way.

9

Vox.

Hal - le - lu _____ jah, peace be with _____

13

Vox.

us. Love has come to show _____ the way.

Gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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

This is a Move

Setting the Table*

Vocals

Make me Your ves-sel, make me an of - fer-ing

3

Vox. Make me what-ev - er You want me__ to be.

5

Vox. came here with noth - ing but all you have giv - en me.

7

Vox. Je - sus, bring new wine out of me.__

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:

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._____

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

$\text{♩} = 73$

Vocals 

I come bro - ken to be mend - ed I come wound-ed to be

⁴
Vox. 

healed. I come des - p'rate to be res - cued. I come emp - ty to be

⁸
Vox. 

filled. I come guilt - y to be par-doned by the blood of Christ, the

¹²
Vox. 

lamb. And I'm wel - comed with o - pen arms, praise God just as I

¹⁷
Vox. 

am.

Communion Song

Here I Am

Chorus **Here I am standing right beside you
Here I am do not be afraid
Here I am waiting like a lover
I am here here I am**

Verse 1 **Do not fear when the tempter calls you
Do not fear even though you fall
Do not fear I have conquered evil
Do not fear never be afraid**

Chorus

Verse 2 **I am here in the face of ev'ry child
I am here in ev'ry warm embrace
I am here with tenderness and mercy
Here I am I am here**

Chorus

Verse 3 **I am here in the midst of ev'ry trial
I am here in the face of despair
I am here when pardoning your brother
Here I am I am here**

Chorus

Ending **I am here here I am**

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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*

My Feet Are on the Rock

Verse 1 **I can see the clouds roll in
I can feel the winds they try to shake me
I will not be moved my feet are on the Rock**

Verse 2 **I can feel the waters rise
I can hear the howling lies that haunt me
Fear won't hold me now my feet are on the Rock**

Chorus **When I feel my hope about to break
I will cling to Your unchanging grace
Let the waters come and the earth give way
I'll be dancing in the rain
(My feet are on the Rock)**

Verse 3 **I can see the morning light
I can feel the joy on the horizon
Here my faith is found I stand on solid ground**

Chorus

Bridge **On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
So stomp your feet and clap your hands
Our feet are on the Rock (repeat 2 more times)**

Chorus, repeat Chorus

Ending **My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock**

Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

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

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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.



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