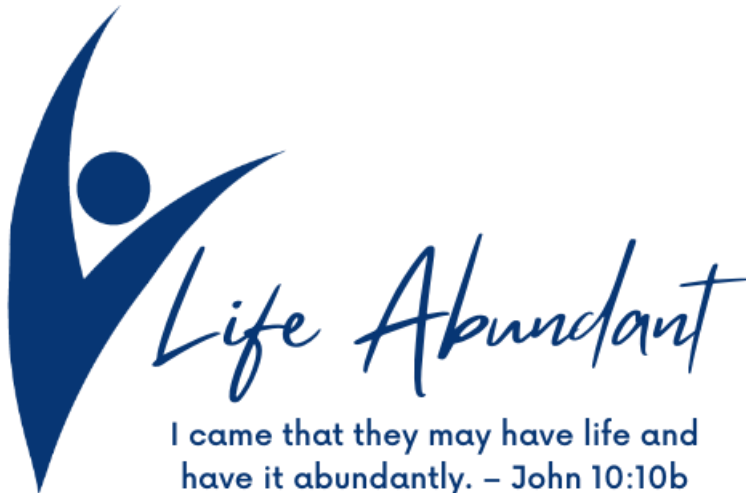


W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P



**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 19, 2023
11:00 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
www.relcmmedia.org**

Welcome to Reformation!

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 also wish to recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

A special welcome to visitors – we pray that the encounter with God in worship will nurture us in Christian faith and equip us for our life of loving service and justice in the world.

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.



Worship bags (filled with coloring books and crayons) are available at the back of the sanctuary and can be taken to your seat.

A play space is also available at the back of the sanctuary with additional books and soft toys.

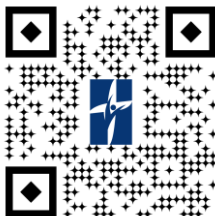
A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

All are welcome at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.

Our Prayer List can be found at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch. To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send an e-mail to rlc@relcmedia.org.

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

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.



Scan to give online through our secure platform or through Venmo.

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2023 · 11:00 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Glorious Christ

Bob Kauflin

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 always 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

Better is One Day

Verse 1 **How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings**

Chorus **Better is one day in Your courts Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)**

Verse 2 **One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)**

Chorus

Bridge **My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You**

Bridge **Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere**

Chorus

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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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

The assembly is seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

☞ A reading from Zephaniah.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.” ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A A reading from first Thessalonians.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

After the reading has concluded:

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Silence for reflection

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

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**

APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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

Opportunity will be provided for you to offer prayers for concerns on your heart, silently or aloud. Please conclude each prayer petition with the words, "Lord, in your mercy."

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

A 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.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Tithes and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church

MUSICAL OFFERING

Graves into Gardens

Brandon Lake, Chris Brown,
Steven Furtick & Tiffany Hudson

SETTING THE TABLE

The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.



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

A Let us pray. Merciful God,

C as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly'. The second staff continues with: 'Ho - ly Heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry, your'. The third staff continues with: 'glo - ry. Bless-ed is He who comes comes in the na - me of the'. The fourth staff concludes with: 'Lo - rd. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.' followed by a double bar line.

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly

Ho - ly Heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry, your

glo - ry. Bless-ed is He who comes comes in the na - me of the

Lo - rd. Ho - sa - na in the high - est._____

P Blessed are you, . . . as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

☞ Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord! We believe and teach that Christ is present in the mystery of the sacrament of Holy Communion and that by communing with him we receive forgiveness of our sin.

Communion will be distributed by intinction – after you receive the bread, you may dip it in the chalice on the bread tray, which has grape juice, or the chalice held by the communion assistant, which has wine. Children who have not received instruction for communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to walk to communion, please let an usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available upon request to the pastor distributing the bread.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

The assembly sings the following during communion.:

Behold the Lamb of God

Matt Maher

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.

- Verse 1 **From the breaking of the dawn To the setting of the sun
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
Words of power strong to save That will never pass away
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
For Your covenant is sure And on this I am secure
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word**
- Verse 2 **When I stumble and I sin Condemnation pressing in
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
You are faithful to forgive That in freedom I might live
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
Guilt to innocence restored You remember sins no more
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**
- Verse 3 **When I'm faced with anguished choice I will listen for Your voice
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with Your hand
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
And You've promised to complete
Ev'ry work begun in me So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**
- Verse 4 **Hope that lifts me from despair Love that casts out ev'ry fear
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
Not forsaken not alone For the Comforter has come
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word
Grace sufficient grace for me Grace for all who will believe
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word**

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After all have communed, the assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Verse 1 **I was walking the wayside
Lost on a lonely road
I was chasing the high life
Try'n to satisfy my soul**

Verse 2 **All the lies I believed in
Left me crying like the rain
Then I saw lightning from heaven
And I've never been the same**

Chorus **I'm gonna climb a mountain
I'm gonna shout about it
I am a child of love
I found a world of freedom
I found a friend in Jesus
I am a child of love**

Repeat Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus

Chorus

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DISMISSAL

A Called by Christ,

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

A Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C Thanks be to God.

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**To see the list of today's worship volunteers,
you can go to relcmedia.org/worshipteam,
scan here:**



**or visit the Worship Team
information stand in the lobby.**

OUR MISSION

**Called by Christ, we INVITE all people,
SERVE our neighbors, and
BUILD a living faith.**

WELCOME

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.

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Team

To contact those with an extension please call **610-891-0600** and use the listed extension number or send e-mail to the listed address.

All other phone calls: 610-891-0600

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Friday, Closed