



**Reformation Lutheran Church**

January 26, 2025 | 8:30 am

Reconciling in Christ 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](http://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](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).

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

**Large print bulletins are available from an usher.**

# Gathering

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\*Please stand as you are able

**Congregational responses are indicated in bold**

## Prelude

We All Are One in Mission

setting, Mark Sedio

## 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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The boundless riches of Christ are the gift of God's grace to all people. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song\*

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymn 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

## 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. Holy God, your Word teaches us, calls us, and shapes us, that we will become the wisdom of God and the body of Christ for others. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday may your word turn us toward what is good and holy and just, that all your beloveds may be seen, known, and loved. **Amen.**

# Word

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## First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

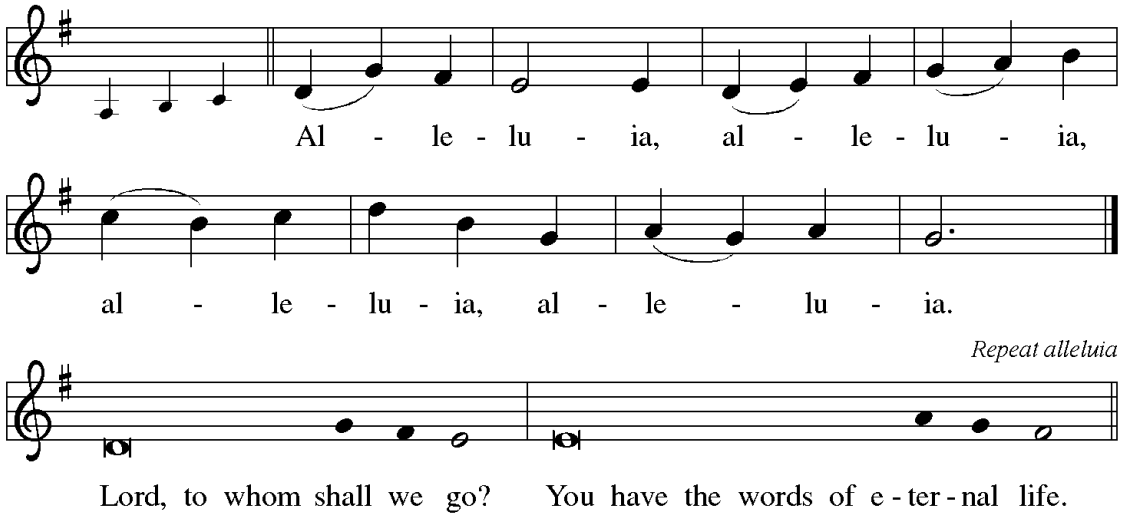
A reading from first Corinthians.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation\*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel\*

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **Sermon on the Steps**

**Sermon**

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan



# Hymn of the Day\*

## God, We Gather As Your People

Hymn 1038 (ACS)



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

## **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\***

Called to be light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

[The prayers conclude:]

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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

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## Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



## Musical Offering

Welcome to God's Love  
Chancel Choir

Mark Miller

## Setting the Table\*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## Offering Prayer\*

Let us pray. Merciful God,  
**receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.**  
**Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

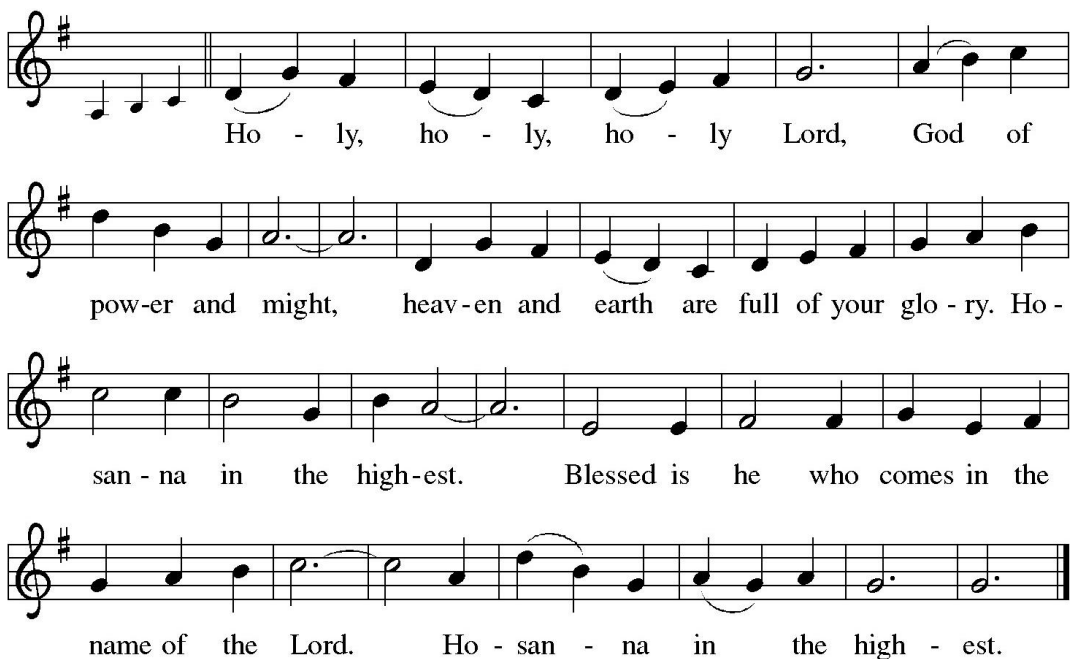
## Great Thanksgiving\*

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, . . . both now and forever.

## 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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

### 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## 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. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Sending

## Blessing\*

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.

Amen.

## Sending Song\*

Hark, the Glad Sound

Hymn 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.



## Dismissal\*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Oh, Love, How Deep

Stephen Gabrielsen

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**Today's Worship Team**  
[relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam)



## **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.



<b>The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski</b> , Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
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**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED