



*Beloved* Community

Beloved, let us love one another, because  
love is from God. - 1 John 4:7

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

April 6, 2025 | 8:30 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

# 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.**

# Worship Reflections and Drawing Space

---

This space is for everyone to make notes, ask questions, doodle, and offer insights or ideas. Feel free to tear out this page to take with you or add to the art display journal next to the pulpit.

---

## Quote to Consider:

“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”  
– Mother Theresa

---

## Question to Consider:

How does the world try to control the way others use their gifts?

# Gathering

---

\*Please stand as you are able

**Congregational responses are indicated in bold**

## Prelude

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Wilbur Held

## 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,

**we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Song\*

### As We Gather at Your Table

Hymn 522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

## 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.**

## Kyrie\*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each with a corresponding musical staff. The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. For the Lord, have mercy. peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the". The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. There are also some markings that appear to be section indicators or repeat signs.

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.                      **A** For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, com - fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

**C** A - men

## Prayer of the Day\*

Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Word

---

## First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation\*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **Gospel\***

John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon on the Steps**

**Sermon**

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

## Hymn of the Day\*

## Take My Life, That I May Be

Hymn 685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use 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\*

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

[The prayers conclude:]

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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

Here My Voice, O Lord  
Chancel Choir

Jayne Southwick Cool

[Children are invited to join the pastor at the altar.]

## Setting the Table\*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## Offering Prayer\*

Let us pray. Holy God,  
**gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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:

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, . . .  
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.

### Lord's Prayer\*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Thanks be to God!**

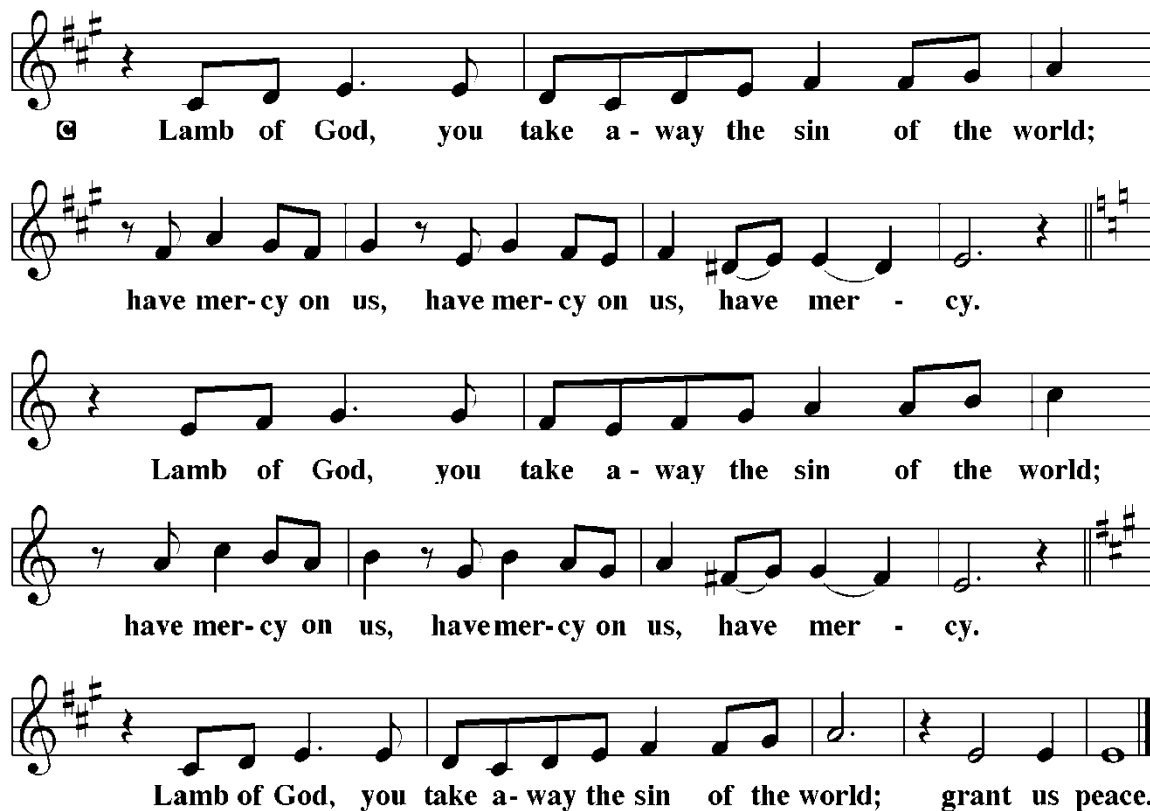
All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

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
  - 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.

[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, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

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



## Communion Song

## Let Us Break Bread Together

Hymn 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

## 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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending of Communion**

Let us pray. Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending**

---

## **Blessing\***

Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song\*

## Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

Hymn 545



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

## Dismissal\*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

Wilbur Held

Liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright 2025, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #34013. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Eucharist setting Now the Feast and Celebration, Text and Music: Marty Haugen; ©1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723332. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-723332. All rights reserved. Jesus, I Will Ponder Now ©1967 Concordia Publishing House. As We Gather at Your Table Text ©1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Take My Life, That I May Be is part of the public domain. Hear My Voice, O Lord ©2017 Augsburg Fortress. Let Us Break Bread Together is part of the public domain. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing is part of the public domain. Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive ©1984 Concordia Publishing House.

**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
<b>The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan</b> , Pastor	PastorEileen@relcmedia.org ext. 108
<b>Christine Corson</b> , Operations Manager	ccorson@relcmedia.org ext. 112
<b>Andrea Menta</b> , Administrative Assistant	amenta@relcmedia.org ext. 110
<b>Valerie Rozek</b> , Director of Music	varozek@relcmedia.org 440-478-8163
<b>Erik Flaten</b> , Director of Contemporary Music	erik.flaten@relcmedia.org 509-528-8979
<b>Debbie Conley</b> , Council President	president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | [relcmedia.org](http://relcmedia.org)

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