

Reformation Lutheran Church

March 29, 2026 | 11:00 am

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

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.

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. All quotes and breath prayers are from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley.

Quote to Consider:

There is a miracle in belonging to God who rejects the image of a gloried hero and instead comes to us on a donkey, centering the plight of those who suffer. Liberation begins with this: Do not be afraid.
- Cole Arthur Riley

Breath Prayer by Cole Arthur Riley:

INHALE: Do not be afraid.
EXHALE: Liberation is coming.

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)

Procession with Palms

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Processional Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of Palms

[All in the congregation raise their branches.]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Procession

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen

[During the Processional Hymn the congregation joins in remembrance of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. At the direction of the ushers, please follow the Choir in two lines to the front of the church via the center aisle and give your palm branches to the pastors; return to your seat via the side aisle. Palms will be returned to worshipers after Communion.]

Gathering Song*

Hosanna

Verse 1 **I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes yeah**

Verse 2 **I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing**

Chorus **Hosanna hosanna Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna hosanna Hosanna in the highest**

Verse 3 **I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith**

Verse 4 **I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees**

Chorus

Bridge **Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your Kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity**

Chorus

[When all are in their places:]

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of the Day*

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Commentary on the Passion

Gospel

Matthew 26:14—27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[After the reading:]

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

[Silence for reflection.]

Hymn of the Day*

Above All

Verse 1 **Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began**

Verse 2 **Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're worth**

Chorus **Crucified, laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all (Repeat Chorus)**

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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

Behold the Lamb

Words and Music:
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty
and Stuart Townend
Arr: Andy Albritton

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

Setting the Table*

Brooke Ligertwood

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

3
Make me what-ev-er You want me__ to be.

5
I came here with noth-ing but all you have giv-en me.

7
Je - sus, bring new wine out of me.__

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

Crowder, Dodson, Maher, and Waldrop
Erik Flaten

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is characterized by a steady eighth-note pulse. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with measure numbers 7, 12, and 16 indicated at the start of their respective lines. The score concludes with a double bar line.

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._____

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:

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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.

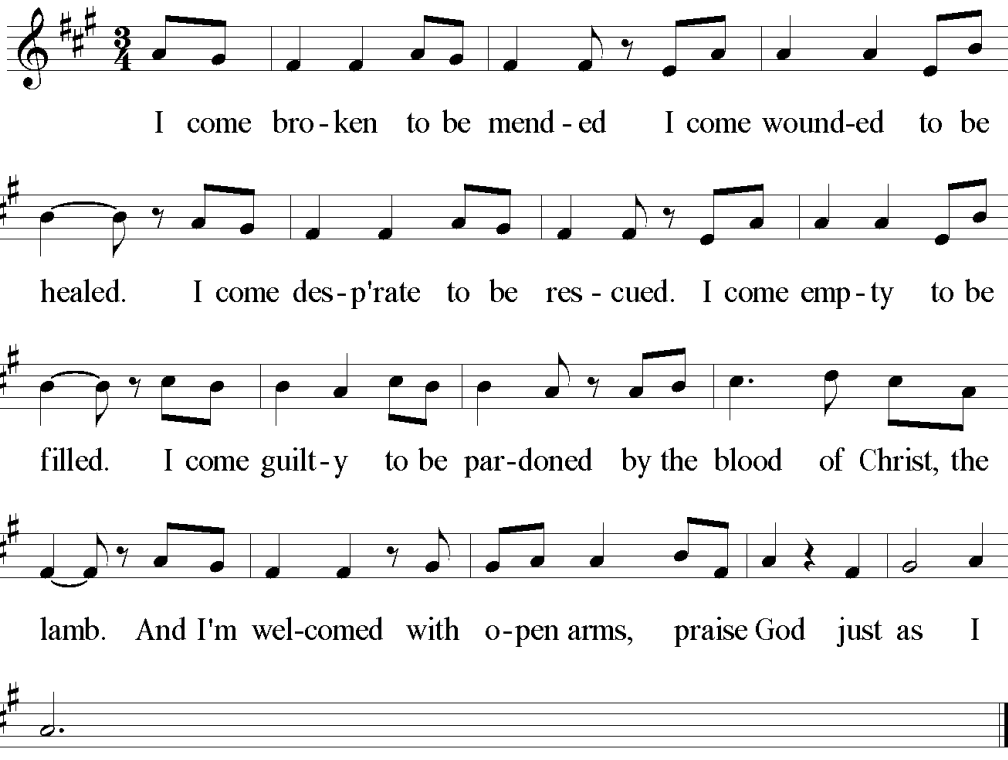
[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Lamb of God

Travis Cottrell

$\text{♩} = 73$

Vocals



I come bro-ken to be mend-ed I come wound-ed to be
4 healed. I come des-p'rate to be res-cued. I come emp-ty to be
8 filled. I come guilt-y to be par-doned by the blood of Christ, the
12 lamb. And I'm wel-comed with o-pen arms, praise God just as I
17 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. 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

Blessing*

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

Amen.

Sending Song*

Were You There

Hymn 353

Verse 1 **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Verse 2 **Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

Verse 3 **Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

Verse 4 **Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

Verse 5 **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

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

Instrumental Musicians

Erik Flaten, Piano

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Jack Burdwood, Drums

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