



Reformation Lutheran Church

August 23, 2026 | 8:30 am

Thirteenth 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*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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*

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Hymn 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

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. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, siblings, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel*

Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Hymn of the Day*

You Are the Way

Hymn 758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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*

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 prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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

Setting the Table*



1. Oh, what shall I ren-der in thanks to my Lord For
2. My hands take the cup of sal - va - tion you give; I'll
all the good gifts by which I am re - stored? No trea - sure I
praise you, O God, for as long as I live. My thanks will rise
ren - der could ev - er re - pay God's mer - cy and faith - ful - ness
up as I call on your name. With all of your pe - ople your
new ev - ry day.
good - ness pro - claim.

Offering Prayer*

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

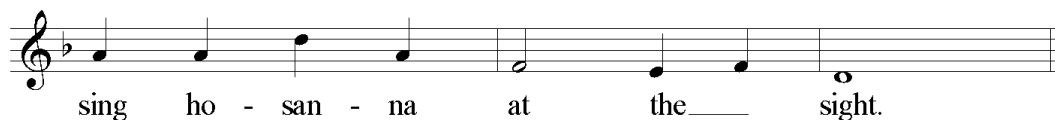
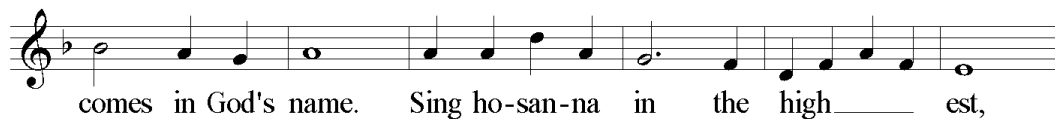
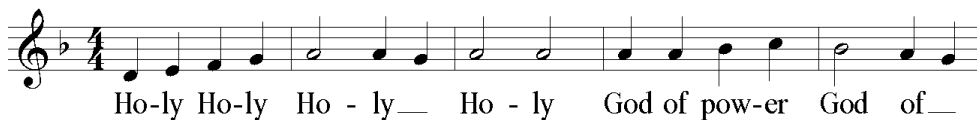
Great Thanksgiving*

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:



Blessed are you, O God, Creator of this wild and wonderful world...

All things bright and beautiful are entrusted to us by you,

And with all creation we praise you, O God.

Blessed and holy Trinity, Now and always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer*

With the confidence of children of God, let us 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

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
 - 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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Song

Lamb of God

Hymn 336

- Refrain **O Lamb of God,
sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**
- Verse 1 **Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God. (Refrain)**
- Verse 2 **Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (Refrain)**
- Verse 3 **I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod
and to be called a lamb of God. (Refrain)**

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. Generous God, we give you thanks that again this day you have opened wide your hands and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing your compassionate heart, may we be blessed and given to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending

Blessing*

Almighty and merciful God + bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.
Amen.

Sending Song*

For the Beauty of the Earth

Hymn 879



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Today's Worship Team
relcmedia.org/worshipteam



Liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright 2026, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #34013. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal Books of the Old Testament. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. 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. Great is Thy Faithfulness Text and music © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. You are the Way is part of the public domain. Lamb of God Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For the Beauty of the Earth is part of the public domain.

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.



The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski , Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan , Pastor	PastorEileen@relcmedia.org ext. 108
Vicar Megan Maiolo , Seminarian	VicarMegan@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson , Operations Manager	ccorson@relcmedia.org ext. 112
Andrea Menta , Administrative Assistant	amenta@relcmedia.org ext. 110
Erik Flaten , Director of Music Ministry	erik.flaten@relcmedia.org 509-528-8979
Laura Reiter , Council President	president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | relcmedia.org

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