

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

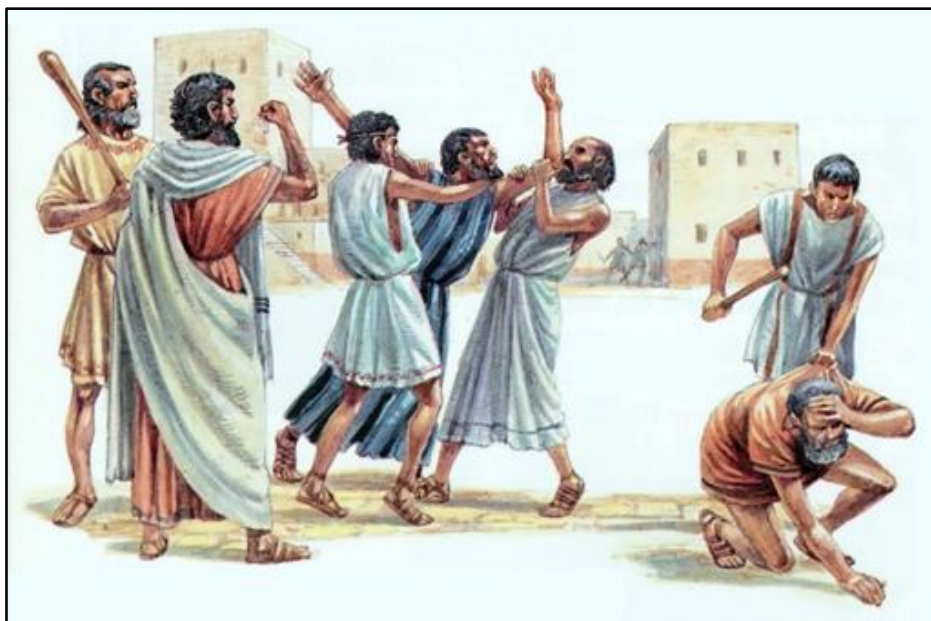
Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534; Pastor Metzloff (570) 706-1330

Fourth Sunday of Easter
A Service of Word and Sacrament

April 21st, 2024
8:30 and 10:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister: Pastor Paul Metzloff
Director of Music: Dr. Heidi Rochlin

	8:30 am	10:30 am
Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin	Sherwood Robbins and Rich Hawk
Reader	Kathy Austin	Don Smith
A/M	Teri Stoddard	Lisa Sokoloff
Acolyte	Karen Montag	Paige Bergey
Nursery	N/A	Teri Stoddard
Altar Guild	Becky Schaeffer, Lynn DeAcosta, Melanie Bechtel, Barnetts	
Flowers	Greg and Teri Stoddard, in memory of loved ones	
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston, Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust	

PRELUDE (RSJSO)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.

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.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
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 HYMN:

ELW 652

Christ Is the King!



1 Christ is the king! O friends, re - jice; broth - ers and sis - ters,
2 Oh, mag - ni - fy the Lord, and raise an - thems of joy and
3 O Chris - tian wom - en, Chris - tian men, all the world o - ver,
4 Let Love's all - rec - on - cil - ing might your scat - tered com - pa -
5 So shall the church at last be one; so shall God's will on



with one voice let the world know he is your choice.
ho - ly praise for Christ's brave saints of an - cient days.
seek a - gain the Way dis - ci - ples fol - lowed then.
nies u - nite in ser - vice to the God of light.
earth be done, new lamps be lit, new tasks be - gun.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus, your first followers established churches in communities near and far. Take us outside of ourselves, and teach us to give away what you have given to us. Show us how to be witnesses to your presence in all places. Amen!

The assembly is seated.

THE LESSONS: ACTS 17:1-9

¹After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.” ⁴Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason’s house. ⁶When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.” ⁸The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, ⁹and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full

conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead . . .

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 677

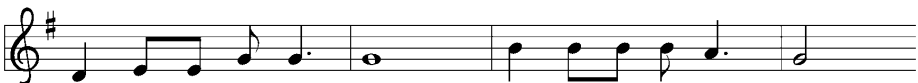
This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Asst. Minister: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed
over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of
good news.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Asst. Minister: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all
for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ,
our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING & ANTHEM (RSJSO)

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-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 dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

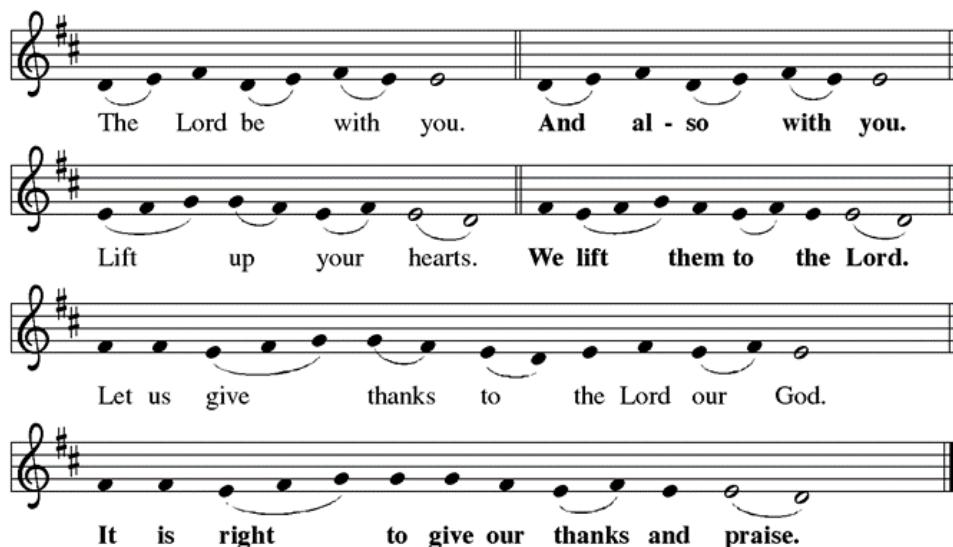
be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

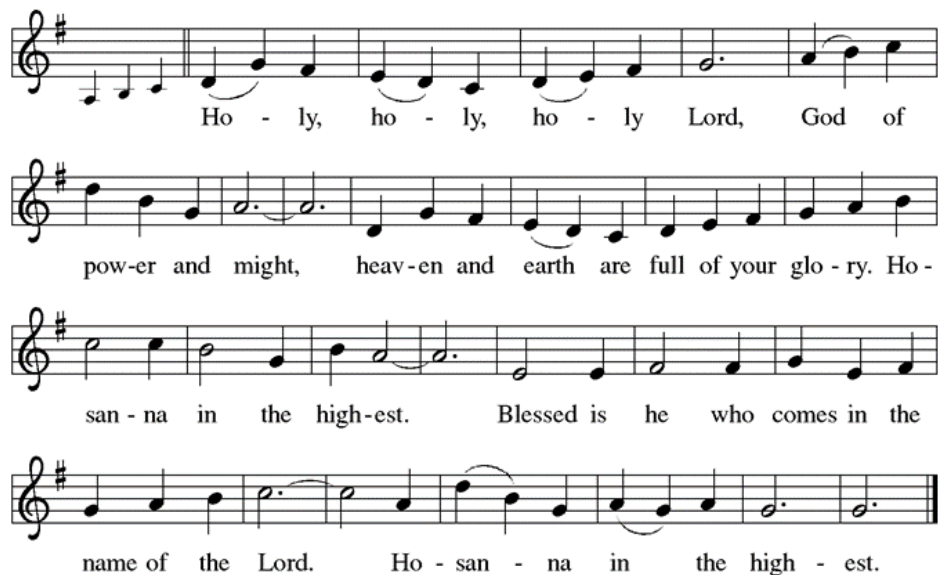
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . .



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

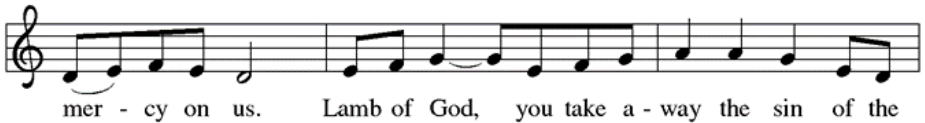
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Please note that, so as to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. All are welcome to commune.



Remembrance (The Communion Song)

Oh, how could it be that my God would welcome me into this mystery?
Say, "take this bread, take this wine"
Now the simple made divine for any to receive

By Your mercy we come to Your table
By Your grace You are making us faithful

Lord, we remember You, and remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

See His body, His blood; know that He has overcome
Every trial we will face none too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed all are welcome in this place

By Your mercy we come to Your table
By Your grace You are making us faithful

Lord, we remember You, and remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

Dying, You destroyed our death
Rising, You restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory
Lord Jesus, come in glory . . . (repeats)

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
 self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

*Refrain***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Shepherding God,

**you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.**

**Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
 and share the good news of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.**

Amen!

BENEDICTION

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

Amen!

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 576

We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE (RSJSO)

**Many thanks to our guest musicians this morning,
the Reading Junior String Orchestra
and their director, Brian Mischler!**

PRAYER LIST

Changes to the Prayer List this week:

Added – A. J. Lambert
Garrett Schanfelder
Removed – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Ruth Blatt, Millie Castillo, Julie Cherry, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Roger Hillibush, A. J. Lambert, Cheryl Manella, LaJune McDonough, Karen Montag, Ginny Rathman, Scott Rathman, Warren Reinhart, Jr., Linda Sell, Elinor Snyder, Cynthia Smoker-Johnston, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, Michael Yerger, and Herb Zettlemoyer.

Friends of Reformation: Larry and Kathy Adomshick, Pat Beane, Sandy Bender, Bob Benton, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Michele Boucher, Abigail Buck, Carole Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl, Luz Cortes, Jim Crowley, Patricia Derr, Wilgus Elliott, Carl Esterly, Susan Flicker, Francis, Beth and Stan Gosek, Tim Harner, Gino Hinnershitz, Don Inmon, Cindy Kohl, Peyton Lanza, Batya Leidner, Kathy McCoy, James Morrison, Amy Papilla, Patty, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Kim Sharp, Shirley, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Steve V., Erika Wesch, and Brenda Williams.

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Ushers:	Jen and Charley Weaver	Matijasich Family
Reader:	Karen Montag	Dan Bergey
A/M:	Pam Schneeberger	Carl Kerchner
Acolyte:	Zander Bogust	Olivia Matijasich
Nursery:	N/A	Sara Lambert

The PennDot Trash Pickup – has been postponed until Saturday, May 11th. Please consider joining us to help care for our adopted section of Perkiomen Ave from 9-11 on May 11th. Vests, gloves, and trash bags will be provided.

SoulShop Faith-Based Suicide Prevention Training – the Mental Health Ministry is sponsoring a daylong training program for religious and community leaders on Saturday, May 4th. The cost is an extremely reasonable \$20, and lunch and course materials are included. If you know of someone who would like to attend, more details and a registration link are at www.afspeasternpasoulshopmay4.attendase.com.

Scholarships - The scholarship application and essay are due by May 5, 2024. Please submit to the church office or to Dan Bergery (dan09dan@aol.com). The application can be found on the church's website under the council and committees tab located at (<https://reformationlutheran.org/about-us/council-committees/>), or a hard copy in the office.

Reading Symphony Jr. String Orchestra - The Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra (RSJSO) will join us for worship at our 10:30 AM service today. The RSJSO is a developmental ensemble for advanced fourth through eighth grade string students of Berks County and surrounding areas, serving as a training ground for the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra (RSYO) and rehearses here at Reformation most Saturday mornings. Under the baton of Brian Mishler, the 40+ member orchestra performs at least four times annually, demonstrating a wide variety of repertoire ranging in styles and difficulty.

Reading Pops Big Band - will present a Jazz Appreciation Month concert at Reformation on Sunday afternoon, April 28th at 4:30 PM. The Big Band performs music from the Swing Era all the way up to more contemporary jazz charts, including Glen Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Count Basie, Stan Kenton, Sammy Nestico, and Neal Hefti, even arrangements from Broadway shows and pop radio tunes! Join us and invite a friend or neighbor. A free-will offering will be received.

Wondering where Thessalonica is? See below -

