

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

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

Lent 4

A Service of Word and Sacrament

March 30th, 2025

8:30 and 10:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

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

	8:30	10:30
Ushers	Dale and Carole Miller	TBD
Reader	John Baver	Judy Plica
A/M	Jen Weaver	Judy Plica
Acolyte	Karen Montag	TBD
Altar Guild	Cindy Shirey	Cynthia Smoker-Johnston
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston, Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust	

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

You may sit, stand, or kneel.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

We oppress others, even though you have set us free.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.

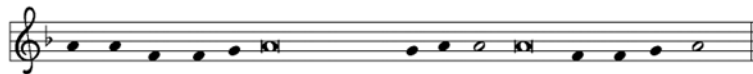
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



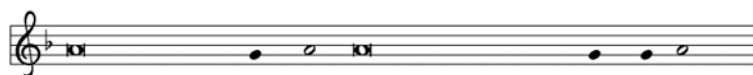
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



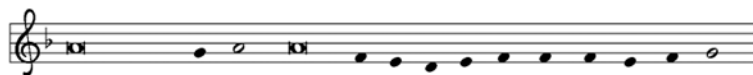
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all time, you sent Moses to speak law to the people, and sent prophets to speak repentance to sinners and hope to the hopeless. And, finally, you sent your son Jesus to become your living Word. Open our ears to hear and our lives to reflect your truth to all the world. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

LUKE 15:1-32

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed Jesus. ¹⁵ So he said to them . . .

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

SERMON

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,

tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al

faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;

no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

APOSTLES' CREED

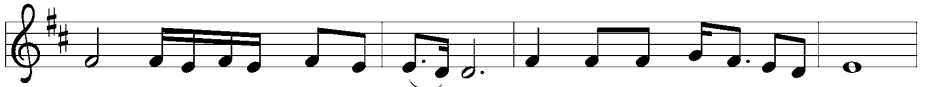
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Asst. Minister: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Petitions conclude with: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Asst. Minister: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING & ANTHEM – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (Ringwald)

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

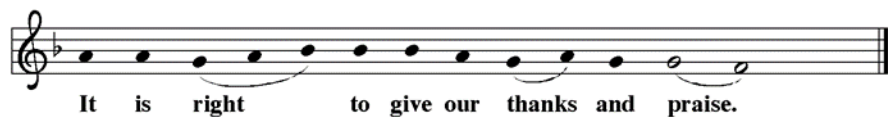
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the offertory 'As the Grains of Wheat'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first three staves are the main melody with lyrics. The fourth staff has two vocal parts: a soprano part (1) and an alto part (2). The fifth staff is a refrain, also with lyrics. The music is written in treble clef.

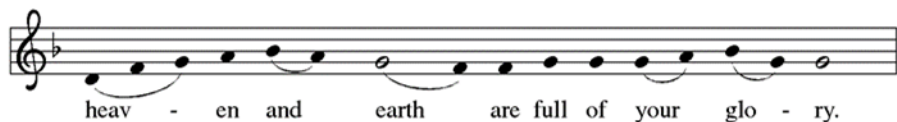
OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
**you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.**
**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**
Amen!

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right . . .



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 366

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.

Chorus: Oh 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.

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. *Chorus*

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 call a lamb of God. *Chorus*

COMMUNION HYMNS

HERE IS BREAD

ELW 483

Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, drink the wine,
Christ is with us here.

Refrain: In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Know His grace, find peace,
feast on Jesus here.
Refrain

Here we are, joined as one,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
We'll proclaim, 'til he comes,
Jesus crucified.
Refrain

In This Feast of Love

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä *syn - ti - sil - le*
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Changes to the Prayer List this week:

Added – Robert Granko

Removed – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Millie Castillo, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Cheryl Manella, LaJune McDonough, Linda Sell, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, and Herb Zettlemyer

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick, Sandy Bender, Bob Benton, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Michele Boucher, Carole Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr, Immanuel Eberly, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Robert Granko, Lee Hartman, Gino Hinnershitz, John Howard, Evelyn Hunsicker, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Dana Little, Kathy McCoy, Debbie Mikes, Jean Morgan, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Patty, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Steve V., Grace Vetter, and Erika Wesch

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Ushers:	Pat and Kathy Austin	Brad and Peyton Shirey
Reader:	Kathy Austin	Alan Blackburn
A/M:	Melanie Bechtel	Alan Blackburn
Acolyte:	Karen Montag	TBD

Palms and Easter Flowers - envelopes are available to purchase flowers for Easter (daffodils this year at \$10 each) and to either purchase or sponsor potted palms for Holy Week (\$25 for either). Please note that since our new florist does not rent palms, the purchase option means you get to keep the palm, while the sponsor option means you do not (it will be given away or composted).

Council Installation – will take place at both services today.

Lenten Banner – our Lenten banner this week depicts an anchor cross – a Latin cross with curved flukes at the base resembling a ship anchor.

Midweek Lenten Services - our midweek Lenten services continue with a Holden Evening Prayer worship service at 7 pm, followed by a brief Bible Study (at ~7:30). Remaining services are April 2 and 9. Please join us, and invite a friend!

Wednesday Evening Lenten Suppers – You are also invited to join us at 5:45 for food and fellowship before each Wednesday Evening Lenten Service. We will share soups, salads and bread on the 5 Wednesday evenings (listed above). Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you plan to attend. If you are able and willing to provide something for the meal, please check to see what is needed and indicate that as well on the separate sheet. We look forward to seeing you!

Easter Candy Collection - We are once again requesting candy donations for our Easter Egg hunt! Please make sure the candy is small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. All candy donations can be placed in the bin located in the lobby. We will continue to collect candy through Palm Sunday (April 13th). Thank you kindly for your support!

College and Military Care Packages - Reformation is once again mailing Care Packages to students attending college and to those serving in the military. If someone in your family meets this criteria and they would like to receive a Care Package this Spring, please email the information below to Alicia Bergey at smittyfh@hotmail.com. Deadline for submission is Sunday, April 6th.

Experience Holy Week – join us for an intergenerational event with crafts, a service project (packing the LWR Health Kits), and refreshments!

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Palm Sunday – April 13th, 8:30 and 10:30 am

Experience Holy Week – 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 17th, 7 pm

Good Friday – April 18th, 7 pm

Easter Sunday – April 20th, 8:30 and 10:30 am

Breakfast – 9:30-10:30 am

Egg Hunt – 9:30 am

March 18, 2025 Council Highlights:

· Alan Blackburn is the new Council President, Steve Barnett is the new Vice-President, Teri Stoddard is the new Treasurer, Melanie Bechtel was re-elected as the Recording Secretary and Carol Miller and Melanie Bechtel are Co-Financial Secretaries.

· Reformation Youth are doing a Mission Trip to Nashville, TN this summer.

· Discussed restarting the annual yard sale. If any Committee would like to run the yard sale and raise funds for your committee or another ministry, let the Council know.

· The Council is looking for 2 people to attend the West Berk's Mission District Spring Assembly on May 8, 2025 at 7pm. Please let Alan Blackburn know if you are interested.

Reading Pops Big Band Concert - will be in concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 19th at 7:00 PM. This free-will concert will feature music from the Swing Era, contemporary jazz charts and even Broadway show and pop radio tunes. Come and enjoy an evening of toe tapping tunes!

LWR Health Kit Collection – continues this week, with the requested item being a comb (sturdy and removed from packaging)