

**Reformation Lutheran Church
3670 Perkiomen Avenue
Reading, PA 19606**

www.reformationlutheran.org

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

**4th Sunday of Easter
A Service of Word and Sacrament**

**May 11th, 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	Charley and Jen Weaver	TBD
Reader	Greg Stoddard	Don Smith
A/M	Teri Stoddard	Alan Blackburn
Acolyte	Zander Bogust	Olivia Matijasich
Flowers	John and Donna Baver – in honor of our anniversary Dennis and Tina Little – in memory of loved ones	
Altar Guild	Heather McHale and Pam Schneeberger	
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston, Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust	

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

The River

To the river I am going, bringing sins I cannot bear
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me
Lord I need to meet you there

In these waters, healing mercy flows with freedom from despair
I am going to that river, Lord I need to meet you there

Precious Jesus, I am ready to surrender every care
Take my hand now, lead me closer
Lord I need to meet you there, Lord I need to meet you there

Come and join us, in the river, come find life beyond compare
He is calling, He is waiting, Jesus longs to meet you there
He is calling, He is waiting, Jesus longs to meet you there

Precious Jesus, I am ready to surrender every care
Take my hand now, lead me closer, Lord I need to meet you there
Take my hand now, lead me closer, Lord I need to meet you there

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

God who fulfills promises and prophecies, with words and water you claim people as your own. Claim us as heirs and agents of your kingdom, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us, and seek out opportunities to share that life with others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ACTS 8:26-39

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said,

“Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”^[h] ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 448

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

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: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Asst. Minister: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING & ANTHEM

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY:

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
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.

This musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second line also contains two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third line contains two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth line contains two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some ties.

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.

This musical score continues the hymn on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second line contains two measures: 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third line contains two measures: 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth line contains two measures: 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody continues with a similar simple, hymn-like style.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a single note spans multiple syllables.

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on Him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live

There in the ground, His body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of Hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I'll stand

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name

Taking my sin my cross my shame
Rising again I bless your name
You are my all in all

When I fall down you pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 537

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Changes to the Prayer List this week:

Added – Scott Leone
Tim Montag

Removed – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Millie Castillo, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Cheryl Manella, Tim Montag, Linda Sell, Dave Shirey, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, and Herb Zettlemoyer

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick, Sandy Bender, Bob Benton, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Michele Boucher, Charmis, 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, Scott Leone, 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, Grace Vetter, and Erika Wesch

Next Week’s Worship Leaders:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Ushers:	Dale and Carole Miller	Shirley Harner and Joanne Scattergood
Reader:	Karen Montag	Jeanne Gochnauer
A/M:	Melanie Bechtel	Jeanne Gochnauer
Acolyte:	Karen Montag	TBD

Please note the open slots on the worship leader lists, and consider participating -

Clothing Bank News - We are collecting summer clothing for May. We are in need of shorts and short sleeved shirts for girls and boys in sizes 5-16. We are also collecting children's books. Thanks for your help!!

Spring Clean-up - of our church grounds will take place on Saturday, May 17th, beginning at 8:00 AM. You're invited to join the property committee as we clean out the landscape beds and lay mulch. Bring your tools, (marked with your name) and wheelbarrows. Coffee, donuts, and water will be available.

Building Use – please note that our entire building, other than the offices, will be in use by the Agora charter school for testing for one more week, May 12-16, from 7 am to 4 pm. Please respect their need for quiet and do not enter the building during these times. Thank you.

Youth Bowling Event - with St. Mark's, Schwartzwald and Reformation Lutheran Churches

Date: Friday, May 16th

Time: 7:00pm – 8:15pm

Who: Youth 4th grade – 12th grade

Cost: FREE (for members and friends of Reformation)

Place: Jay Lanes

1428 Ben Franklin Highway East

Douglassville, PA 19518

If you plan on attending, please **RSVP by Saturday, May 10th** to Alicia Bergey via text at 610-316-7387 or email at abergey2@gmail.com so we can reserve lanes for our group.

Congregational Picnic – will be at Rustic Park in Birdsboro on Sunday, June 1st, with worship starting at 10:30 and the picnic to follow.

Healing Service – there will be a brief service of healing and anointing after the 10:30 service today.

Note on some of the geography of the lesson today: modern Ethiopia isn't exactly where the Ethiopia mentioned in the text was; scholars think it was most likely the kingdom based in the city of Meroë, also known as the Cushite or Nubian kingdom. On this map, Jerusalem is at the center of the northern border, about here.

