

# Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

[www.reformationlutheran.org](http://www.reformationlutheran.org)

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

**First Sunday of Christmas  
A Service of Word and Sacrament**

**December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
9:30 AM**



# Welcome to Reformation!

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

9:30

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Ushers	Bob Rutherford and Melanie Karasek
Reader	Judy Plica
A/M	Judy Plica
Acolyte	TBD
Altar Guild	Melanie Bechtel

Live streaming Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston,  
Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared**

**room in our hearts for your love;**

**we have not always recognized your presence among us;**

**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge;**

**our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones;**

**our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song  
of your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

† Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

## Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

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## 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



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Glorious God, help us to hear when your chosen voices proclaim the work of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in this world and the next. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **JOHN 1:19-34**

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

## **SERMON**

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



## 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

Assisting Minister: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:*

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

Assisting Minister: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE


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

## OFFERING

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,  
**great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.  
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 . . .

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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.*



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 HYMNS

## What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing,  
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' n - ly,  
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God,  
**you are among us at this table.**  
**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts**  
**the mystery of your presence.**  
**Move us to discover the wonders of your love**  
**in the everyday moments of our lives,**  
**through Christ born in us. Amen!**

## BENEDICTION

The triune God, glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen!**



## The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star where - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

# PRAYER LIST

Added - None

**Reformation Family:** Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Millie Castillo, Linda Centofanti, Harriet Clauser, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Rich Hawk, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Cynthia Smoker-Johnston, Maddie Kemp, Tina Little, Cheryl Manella, Linda Sell, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, and Herb Zettlemoyer

**Friends of Reformation:** Kathy Adomshick, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Bob, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Carole Coddington, Dale Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr, Immanuel Eberly, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Lee Hartman, Gino Hinnershitz, John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Marsha Krall, Roger Krause, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Kathy McCoy, Debbie Mikes, Jean Morgan, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Grace Vetter, Linda W., Michael Ware, and Erika Wesch

## **Next Week's Worship Leaders:**

**9:30**

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Ushers:	Bruce Seiz and Pam Schneeberger
Reader:	Karen Montag
A/M:	TBD
Acolyte:	TBD

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Reports** – if you have a report for the congregation’s annual report, please send it to both the office and pastor at [mail@reformationlutheran.org](mailto:mail@reformationlutheran.org) and [pastor@reformationlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@reformationlutheran.org) by midnight on December 31st. Thanks!

**Help to Undecorate?** – if you have some spare time and would like to help remove and safely store our Christmas decorations after worship on January 4<sup>th</sup>, please make plans to stick around – thanks!

**Reminder** – there will be a single service at 9:30 am next Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Financial Summary for November:**

	THREE YEAR TREND - NOVEMBER 2025		
INCOME			
REGULAR OFFERINGS	11/30/2025	11/30/2024	11/30/2023
ENVELOPES	\$ 198,862.00	\$ 197,909.00	\$ 195,523.00
PLATE	\$ 6,330.00	\$ 4,637.00	\$ 4,314.00
SIMPLY GIVING	\$ 32,935.00	\$ 40,215.00	\$ 48,975.00
TITHELY	\$ 1,654.00	\$ 2,813.00	\$ 6,128.00
	\$ 239,781.00	\$ 245,574.00	\$ 254,940.00
OTHER INCOME	\$ 24,742.00	\$ 18,025.00	\$ 14,972.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 264,523.00	\$ 263,599.00	\$ 269,912.00
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$ 179,848.00	\$ 173,298.00	\$ 163,814.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ 1,868.00	\$ 7,772.00	\$ 4,126.00
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 23,492.00	\$ 22,877.00	\$ 24,314.00
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 13,110.00	\$ 18,414.00	\$ 17,060.00
PROPERTY EXPENSES	\$ 36,468.00	\$ 32,129.00	\$ 31,831.00
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 13,328.00	\$ 6,276.00	
	\$ 268,114.00	\$ 260,766.00	\$ 241,145.00
NET OPERATING BALANCE	\$ (3,591.00)	\$ 2,833.00	\$ 28,767.00