

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

1st Sunday of Lent
A Service of Word and Sacrament

February 22nd, 2026
9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Gregory Stoddard
Director of Music: Dr. Heidi Rochlin

Ushers	Dale and Carole Miller
Reader	Judy Plica
Assisting Minister	Judy Plica
Acolyte	TBD
Altar Guild	Heather McHale and Lisa Phillippi
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

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.

God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain

Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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.



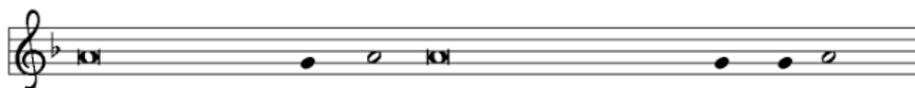
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 new life,

As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life, leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

JOHN 11:1-3, 17-43

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But

even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Now Behold the Lamb

Found in the Red Hymnal

ELW 341

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

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

Assisting Minister: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

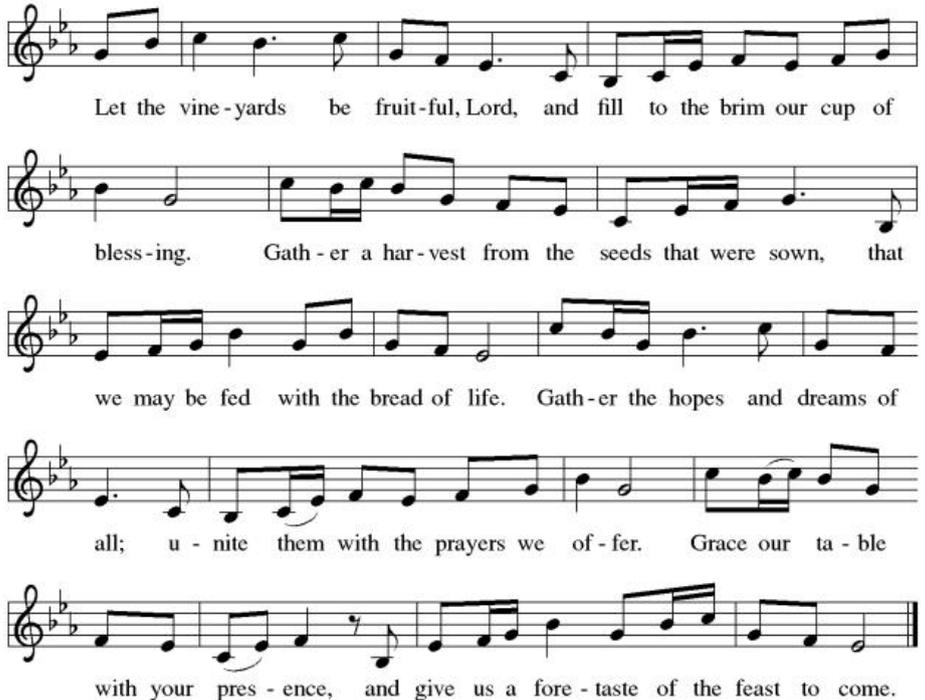
THE PEACE

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

OFFERING & ANTHEM

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful



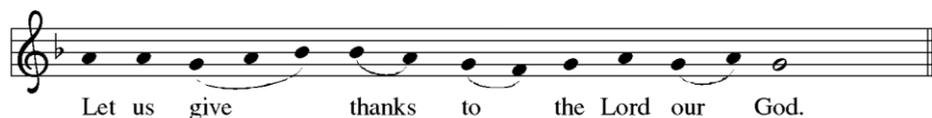
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

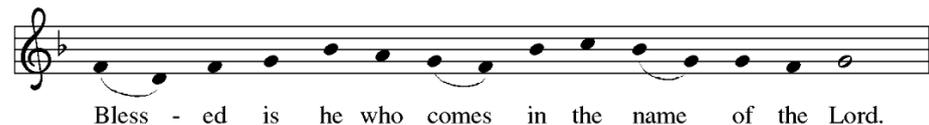
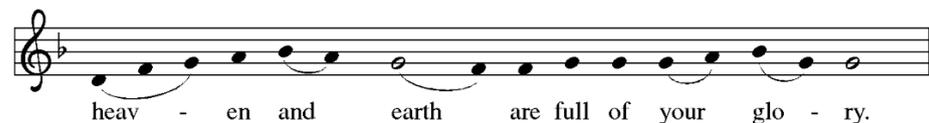
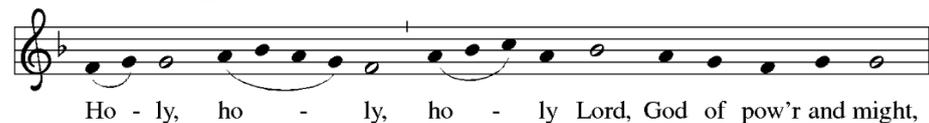
Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

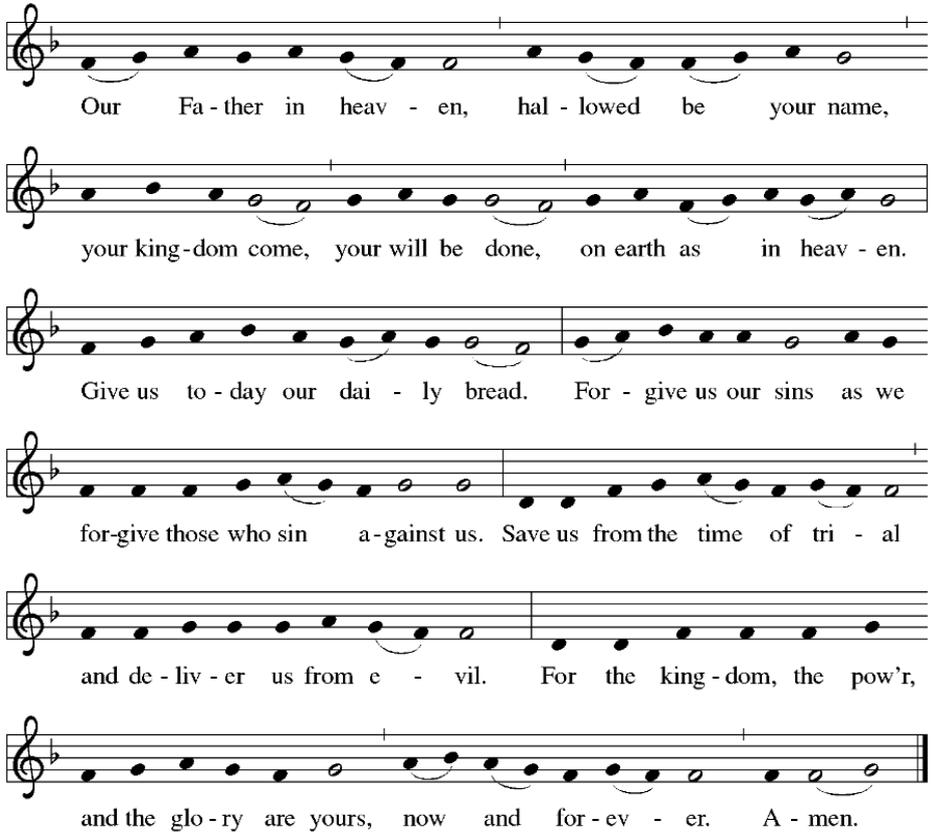


It is indeed right . . .



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



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. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Found in the Red Hymnal

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Found in the Red Hymnal

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 536

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Found in the Red Hymnal

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Added – family of Steve Barnett

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

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick,, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Carole Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr,, Bernadette Dieumegard, Immanuel Eberly, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnershitz, John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Marsha Krall, 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, Erika Wesch, and the family of Steve Barnett

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>March 1</u>
Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin
Reader	Kathy Austin
Assisting Minister	Carole Miller
Acolyte	TBD

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Schedule Change - The Congregational Council approved changing the time of the weekly worship service and Sunday School. Worship 9:30AM, Sunday School 10:30AM

Lenten Soup & Services – Starting Wednesday, February 25th, we will hold a weekly potluck soup and salad dinner starting at 5:45PM with a service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00PM. After the service, an adult Bible Study will be held in the parlor. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex to sign up to bring soup, salad, or bread.

Health Ministry Health Kits Collection – The Health Ministry would like to participate with the Lutheran World Relief Health Kits as a project for Lent again this year. We are asking you to help by bringing an article each week which is listed during Lent. These kits are then sent along with the quilts that are made each year to be distributed throughout the world and the United States. We will be assembling them on Easter morning after church. By assembling LWR Personal Health Kits, we help share God's love and create a Season of Hope for our neighbors around the world. The Bins will be in the narthex for the collection each week. Thank you for helping us with the SEASON OF HOPE.

WEEK 1-----2 bars of 4 to 5 Oz soap any brand in original wrapping

WEEK2-----Bath Towels (light weight maximum between 20"x
40" * 52"x27")

WEEK 3-----1 Single toothbrush in original packaging

WEEK 4-----1 single comb

WEEK 5-----Nail clippers

Family Promise – Monday Meal Program It is Reformation's turn to bring dinners to the families in the 3 Family Promise homes. We will be providing dinners on Monday March 2nd. Dinners should arrive, at the homes around 6 PM, unless otherwise directed. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex starting on Sunday, February 22nd. Dinners should be warm, and can be simple, even a pizza will work. The families enjoy a dessert as well. You do not need to bring drinks. The sign-up sheet has addresses and family size and or allergies, along with addresses to take with you.

This year I would like to add a bag to be delivered, containing a prayer shawl, maybe a baby blanket, or throw, a comforter, toilet paper, tissues, paper towel, and Lysol wipes to be delivered with the meals. If you sign up for a meal, pick up a bag with your house name on it and take it with you on Sunday, March 1st, before you deliver your meal on March 2nd. There will be a sign-up for tissues, paper towels, toilet paper and wipes under the dinner sign-ups, and a basket to drop your donations off in the coat hallway. Please have your donations at the church by March 1st. Thank you. If you have questions, please **call Pam Schneeberger at 610-370-0790 or 484-599-1028.**