

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

5th Sunday of Lent
A Service of Word and Sacrament

March 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	Dee Dee Werner
Acolyte	Zander Bogust
Altar Guild	Cindy & Dave Shirey and Lisa Phillippi
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, *arr. Mitchell Eithun*
Handbell choir with Rocky Rochlin, alto Saxophone

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.

The assembly kneels or sits.

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.

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:

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Traditional

I am weak but Thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?—
When my fee - ble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;—

5

I'll be sa - tis-fied as long — As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares?— None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er — To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

9

Just a clo - ser walk with Thee, Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, —

13

Dai - ly wal - king close to Thee, — Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

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.

gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Found in the Red Hymnal

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.

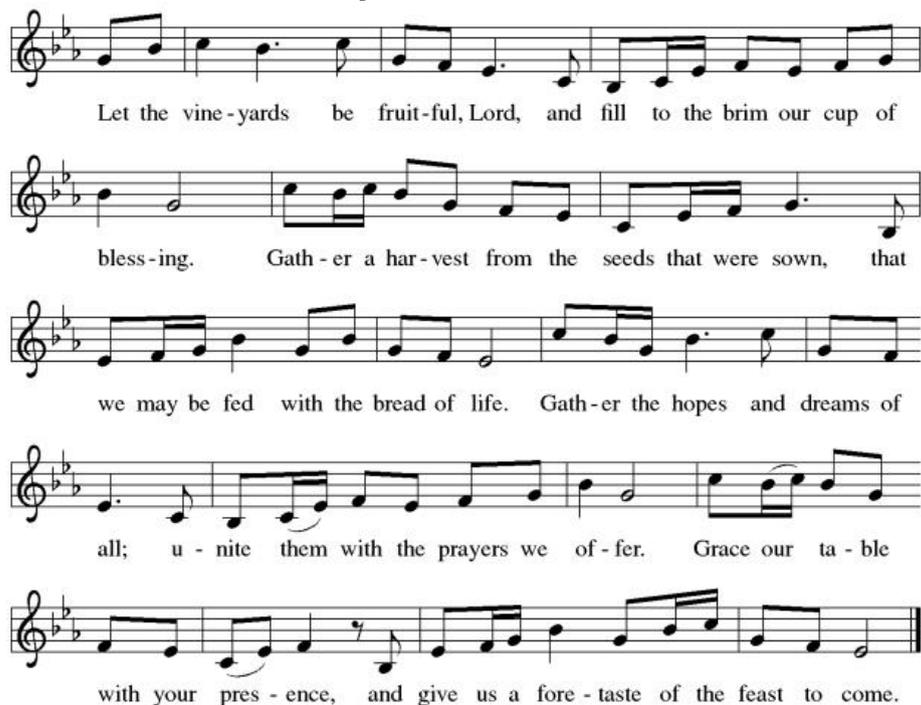
And also with you.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

Total Praise, by *Richard Smallwood*

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.

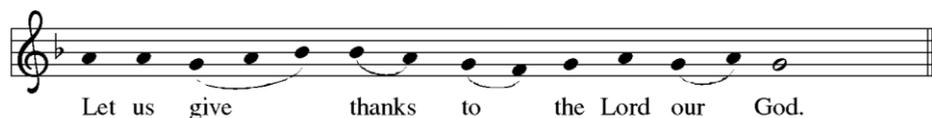
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

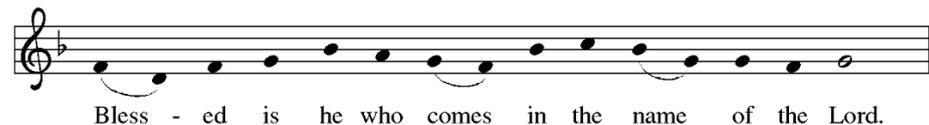
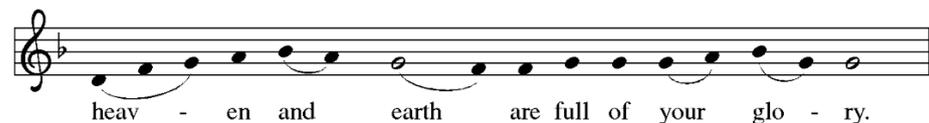
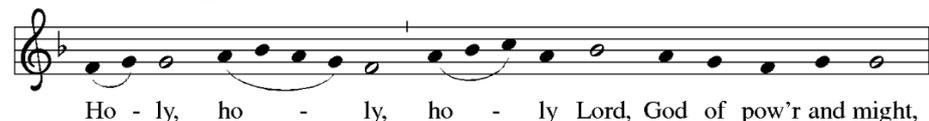
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

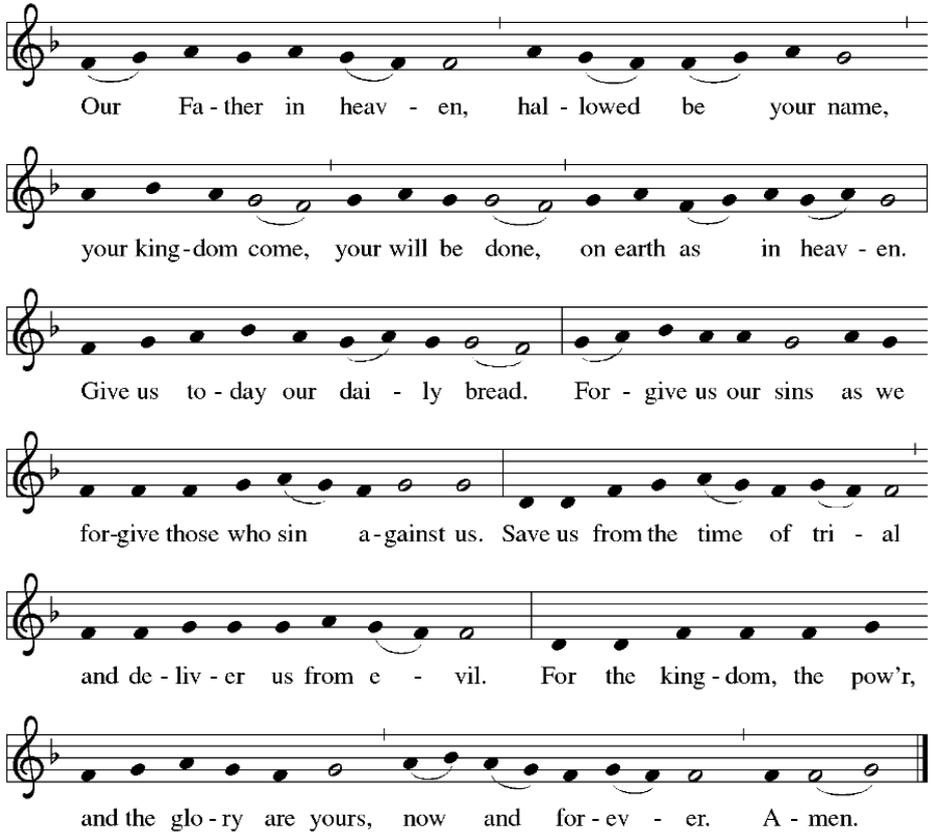


It is indeed right . . .



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

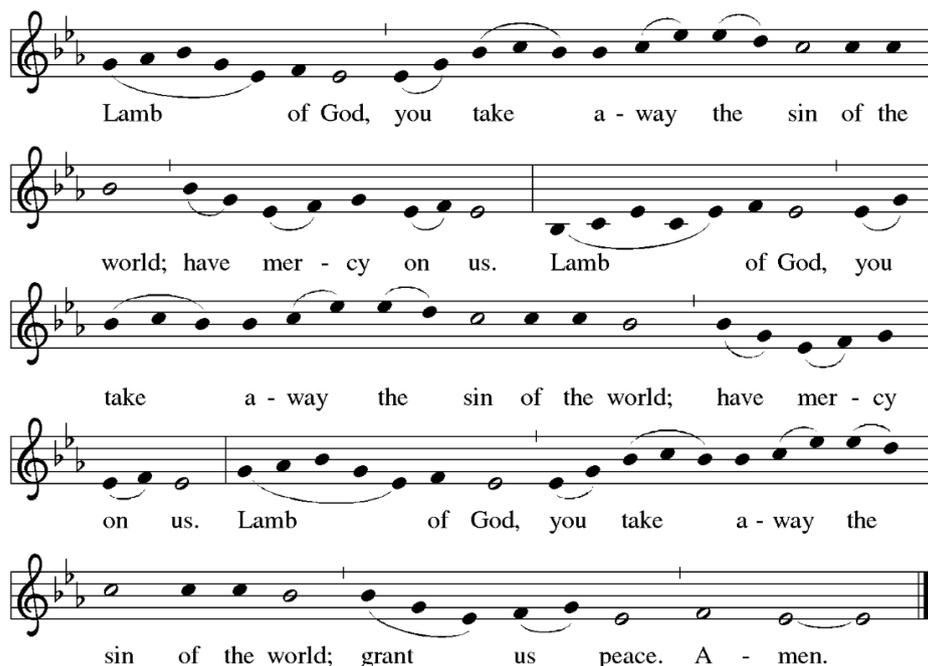


Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the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

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Please note that, 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. When returning your used cups to the trays along the walls, please do not stack the cups. 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

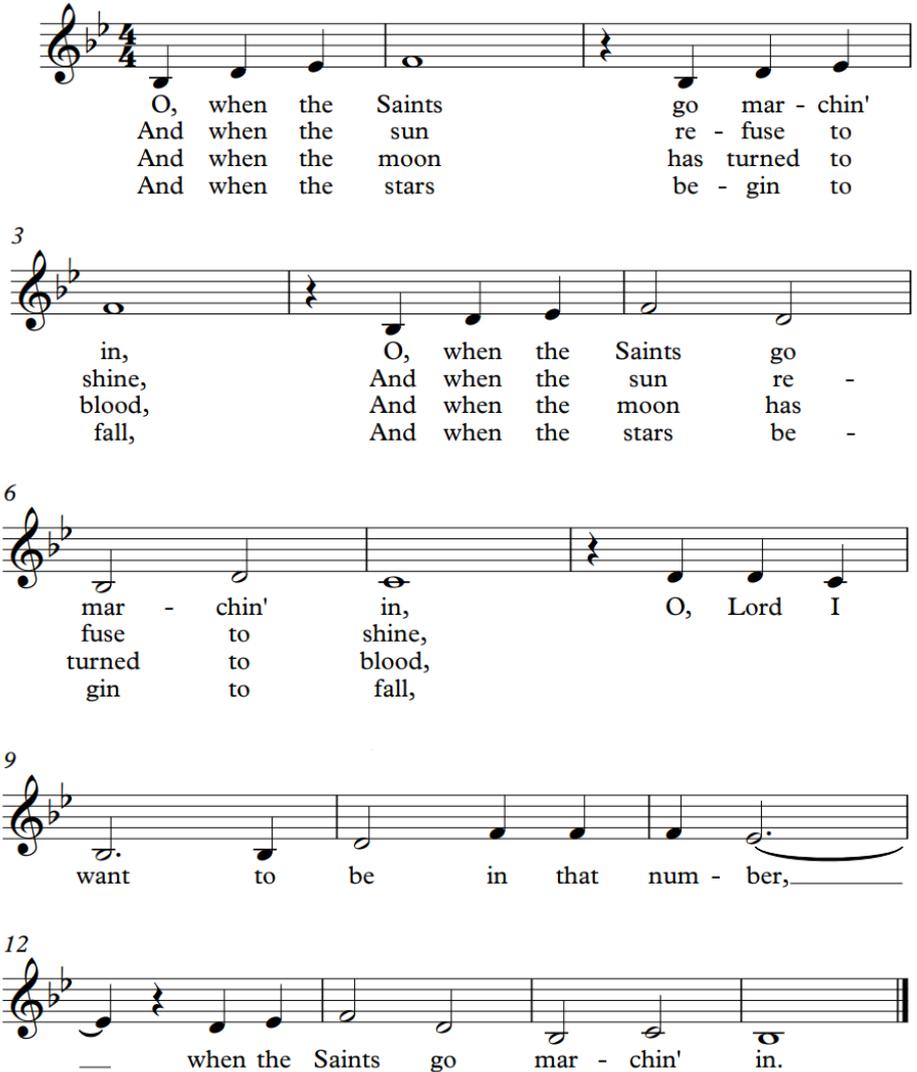
Let us pray.

**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 O When the Saints



O, when the Saints go mar - chin'
And when the sun re - fuse to
And when the moon has turned to
And when the stars be - gin to

3
in, shine, blood, fall,
O, when the Saints go
And when the sun re -
And when the moon has
And when the stars be -

6
mar - chin' in, O, Lord I
fuse to shine,
turned to blood,
gin to fall,

9
want to be in that num - ber,

12
— when the Saints go mar - chin' in.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – Taylor Tenuta

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, Scott, 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, 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, John Swartz, Taylor Tenuta, Grace Vetter, Linda W., Michael Ware, and Erika Wesch

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>March 29nd</u>
Ushers	Bob Rutherford and Melanie Karasek
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Judy Plica
Acolyte	TBD

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Soup & Services – Each Wednesday in Lent, 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 Palm Sunday 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

WEEK 2-----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

Easter Daffodils and Palm Plants (to decorate our sanctuary) will be secured this year from Levensgood's Flowers, Douglassville. Daffodils in a 6" pot cost \$10. Majesty palm plants (3-4' tall) cost \$25. Six palm plants are needed. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin as well as on the shelf in the narthex. **Deadline to order palms is March 22nd**, and daffodils, March 29th. Both daffodils and palm plants may be taken after the 9:30 AM Easter worship service.

A reminder - The Property Committee asks that anyone using the building makes certain that doors are locked and lights are turned off when departing. Thanks for your help.

Experience Holy Week - Our intergenerational event will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 AM following worship. Join us in the parish hall for crafts, service projects, a take-home calendar, and refreshments. We'll fold palm crosses, pack personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and make a clothespin craft for our shut-ins, as well as create a clay tomb, and a pull-back donkey toy! Grandparents - be sure to join us and pick-up items for your grandchildren.

Holy Week @ Reformation

Sun, March 29th - **Palm Sunday Worship** - 9:30 AM

Intergenerational Holy Week Workshop - 10:30 AM

Thurs, April 2nd - **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion** - 7:00 PM

Fri, April 3rd - **Good Friday Tenebrae** - 7:00 PM

Sun, April 5th - **Early Easter Worship** - 8:00 AM

Festival Easter Worship - 9:30 AM

Breakfast - 10:30 AM

Egg Hunt - 11:15 AM

Guest Musicians: A special thank you to our guest musicians today for Jazz Sunday: The "Generations Jazz Ensemble"

Al Rochlin – trumpet

Reuben Rochlin – trumpet

Karen Rochlin – piano / guitar

Rocky Rochlin – saxophone / clarinet

Abi Rochlin – vocals

Pete Souders – tenor saxophone
Robert Benton Jr – percussion
Coby Gumalak – saxophone
Dr. Heidi Rochlin – director / piano



The Paul Colombo Group featuring Kirk Reese - piano, Dave Sheaffer - bass, John Fundyga - drums, Pete Souders - woodwinds, Al Rochlin - trumpet, and Paul Colombo - guitar, will be in concert in our sanctuary on Monday evening, April 20th at 7PM. The Berks Jazz Fest has expanded into a six-week regional celebration in honor of Jazz Appreciation Month (celebrated during the month of April). Reformation is proud to serve as a venue for this on-going celebration. A free-will offering will be received. Join us and invite a friend!