

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

Palm Sunday

A Service of Word and Sacrament

March 29th, 2026

9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

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

Ushers Bob Rutherford & Melanie Karasek
Reader Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister Judy Plica
Acolyte TBD
Altar Guild Cindy & Dave Shirey – Lisa Phillippi
Live streaming Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

GATHERING

Blessed is the one who comes in the names of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: JOHN 12: 12-27

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.^[a] ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen

During the singing of the opening hymn and at the direction of the ushers, please depart your pew via the center aisle, come forward for your palm frond, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Found in the Red Hymnal

Blessed is the one who comes in the names of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

PASSION OF OUR LORD: MARK 15:1-47

See the printed Passion Reading.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 343

My Song Is Love Unknown

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

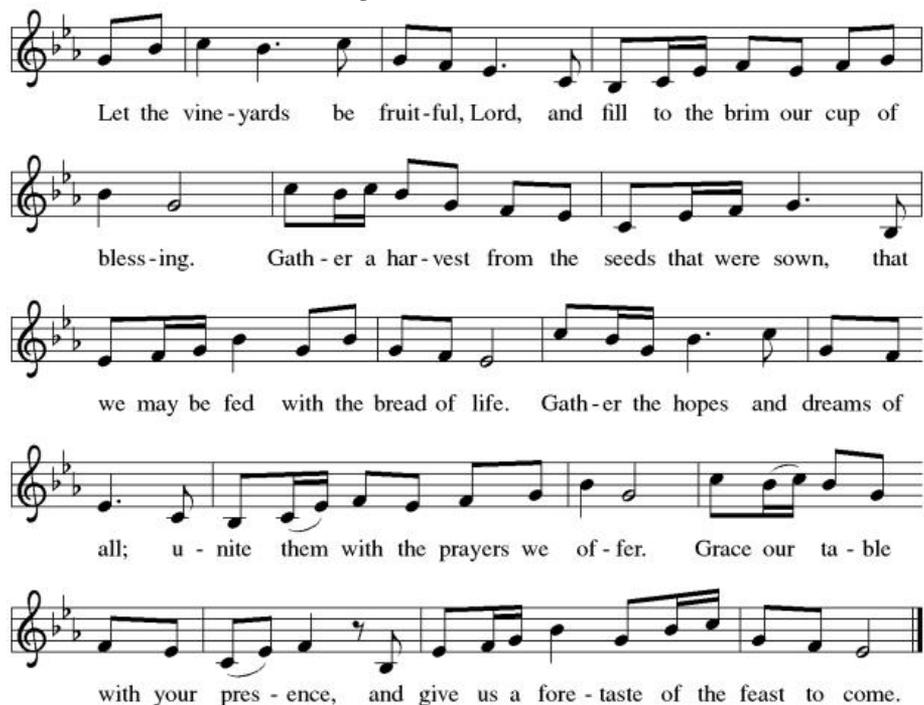
Pietà, Signore! O Lord, have mercy, *by Alessandro Stradella*

Solo: Jack Swartz

The assembly stands.



OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful



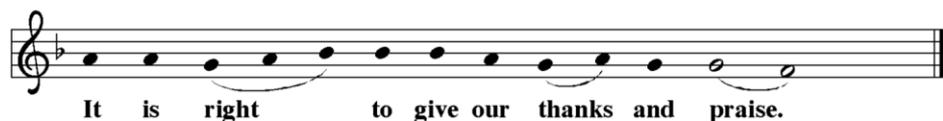
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us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

OFFERING PRAYER

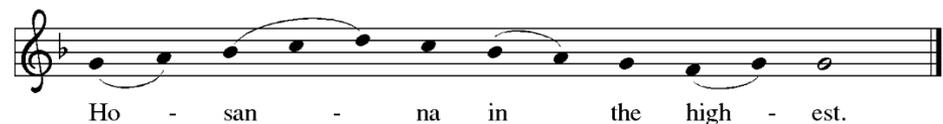
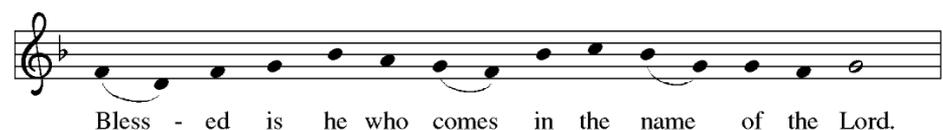
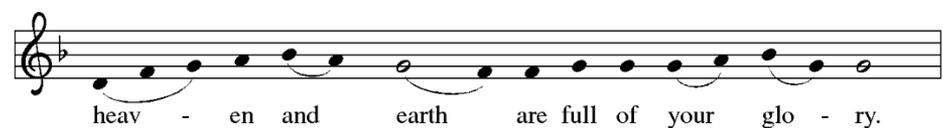
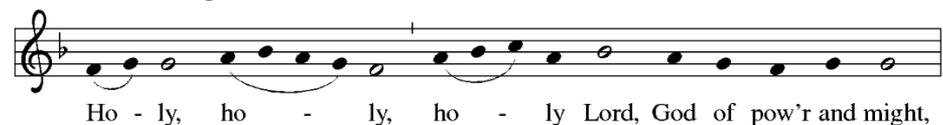
Let us pray.

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 God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 349

Ah, Holy Jesus

Found in the Red Hymnal

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – the family of Marsha Krall

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 Zettlemyer

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, 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, Erika Wesch, and the family of Marsha Krall

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>April 5th</u>	
	8:00	9:30
Ushers	Charley & Jen Weaver	Kathy Miller & Karen Montag
Reader	Teri Stoddard	John Bayer
Assisting Minister	TBD	Cynthia Smoker-Johnston
Acolyte	Jen Weaver	TBD
Crucifer	TBD	TBD

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Daffodils and Palm Plants (to decorate our sanctuary) will be secured this year from Levengood's Flowers, Douglassville. Daffodils in a 6" pot cost \$10. Envelopes will be available on the shelf in the narthex. **Deadline to order daffodils is today, March 29th.** Both daffodils and palm plants may be taken after the 9:30 AM Easter worship service.

Experience Holy Week - Our intergenerational event will be held today 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

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

Please note there is no Midweek Lenten dinner or service this Wednesday, April 1st.

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!

Listening Team Sign-Ups - As one part of the call process for a new Pastor, we are going to have the help of the Synod provided Listening Teams. This will consist of small groups (up to 8 people) meeting at the church and talking with Listening Team members for up to an hour. The sign-up sheets, with various dates and times, are hanging in the Narthex. Please consider signing up so we may gather vital information from a cross-section of the congregation which will help us in getting candidates to be our next pastor. If you cannot make it to one of the dates or to the church, then please contact **Alan Blackburn at 610-308-6285**, about setting up an off-site meeting.