

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

3rd Sunday of Lent
A Service of Word and Sacrament

March 8th, 2026
9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

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

Ushers	Shirley Harner and Joanne Scattergood
Reader	Cindy Shirey
Assisting Minister	Elisha Barnett
Acolyte	Karen Montag
Altar Guild	Cindy and Dave Shirey – Lisa Phillippi
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or sits.

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.

What Wondrous Love Is This

Found in the Red Hymnal

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.



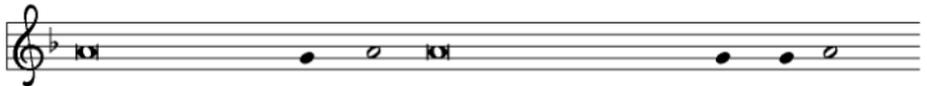
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

When We are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

All My Trials, by *Elizabeth Campbell*

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.

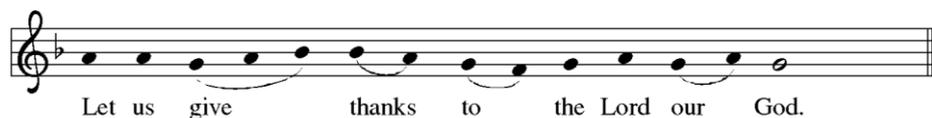
The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

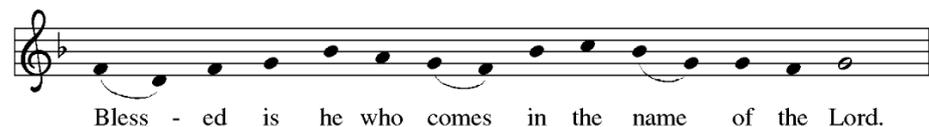
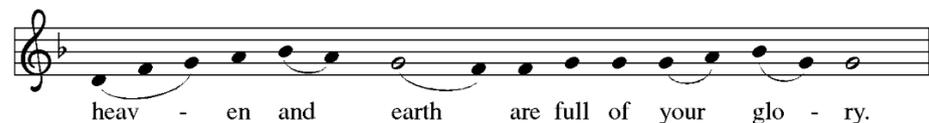
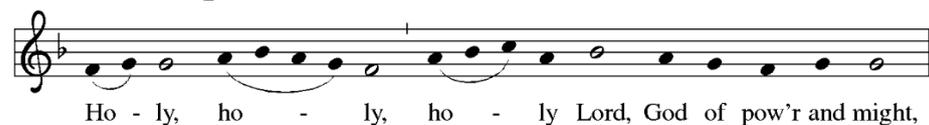
Let us pray.

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

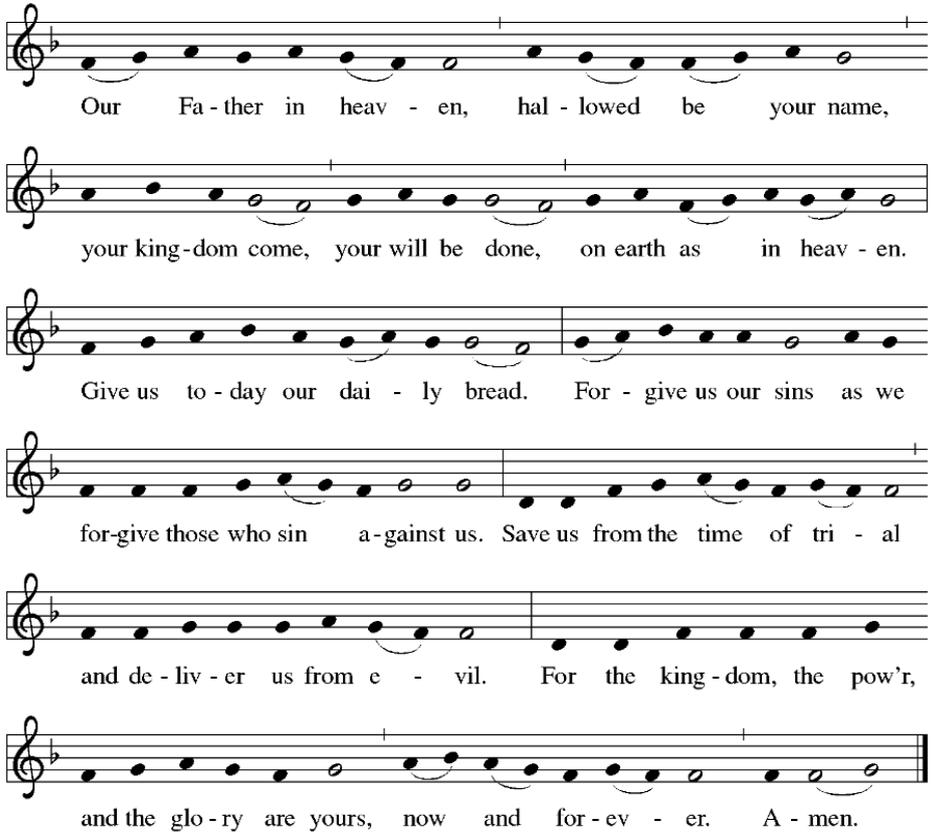


It is indeed right . . .



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

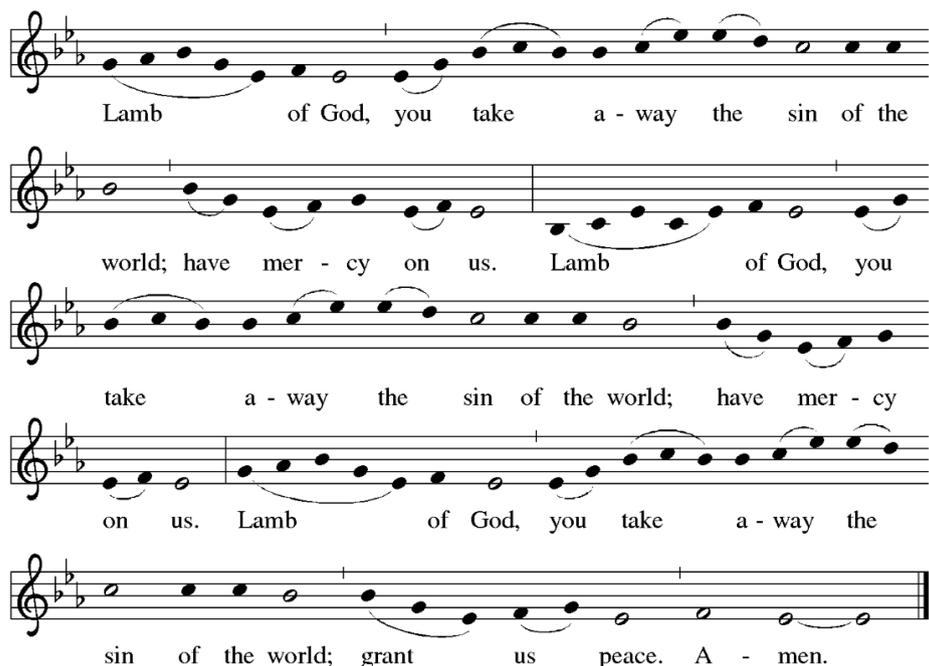


Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the 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 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 618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Found in the Red Hymnal

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Added – none

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, 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, and Erika Wesch

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>March 15th</u>
Ushers	Charley and Jen Weaver
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Melanie Bechtel
Acolyte	Jen Weaver

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 disturbed 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

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 Levengood'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.

***Envelopes for donations will be placed in the bulletin in the coming weeks. If not used, please do not discard, as they are used week to week. Also some of the envelopes are from last year and indicate take home time after the 10:30 service. Please ignore and take home after the 9:30AM service. Thank you!**

Dinner Out at Annamarie's on Main, 339 West Main St., Birdsboro. Join us on Thursday, March 12th @ 6 PM. Reservations need to be called or emailed to the church office by Tuesday, March 10th. All are welcome to share in this time of fellowship.

Jazz Worship on Sunday, March 22nd @ 9:30 AM. Reformation will once again be participating in the Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest. The eight-piece "Generations Jazz Ensemble," directed by Dr. Heidi Rochlin, will join our vocal and handbell choirs in an uplifting worship experience. Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors!

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

Church Council Members:

Charles Miller – President

Steve Barnett – Vice President

Melanie Bechtel

Rich Hawk

Michelle Karasek

Rich Matijasich

Heather McHale

Howard Quaintance

Cynthia Smoker-Johnston

Teri Stoddard

DeeDee Werner