

# Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

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

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
A Service of Word and Sacrament

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
9:30 AM



# Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Gregory Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
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Ushers	Shirley Harner and Joanne Scattergood
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Karen Montag
Acolyte	TBD
Altar Guild	Melanie Bechtel & the Barnett Family
Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Centofanti – in memory of Mr. & Mrs. G.J. Centofanti
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN:

**ELW 363**

**Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

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.**

# THIS IS THE FEAST:

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

**God of resurrection, Your son, Jesus, awed his followers by appearing among them. With awe we also celebrate his resurrection and rejoice in eternal life. Amen.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### JOHN 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that

are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 635

**We Walk by Faith**

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

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

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

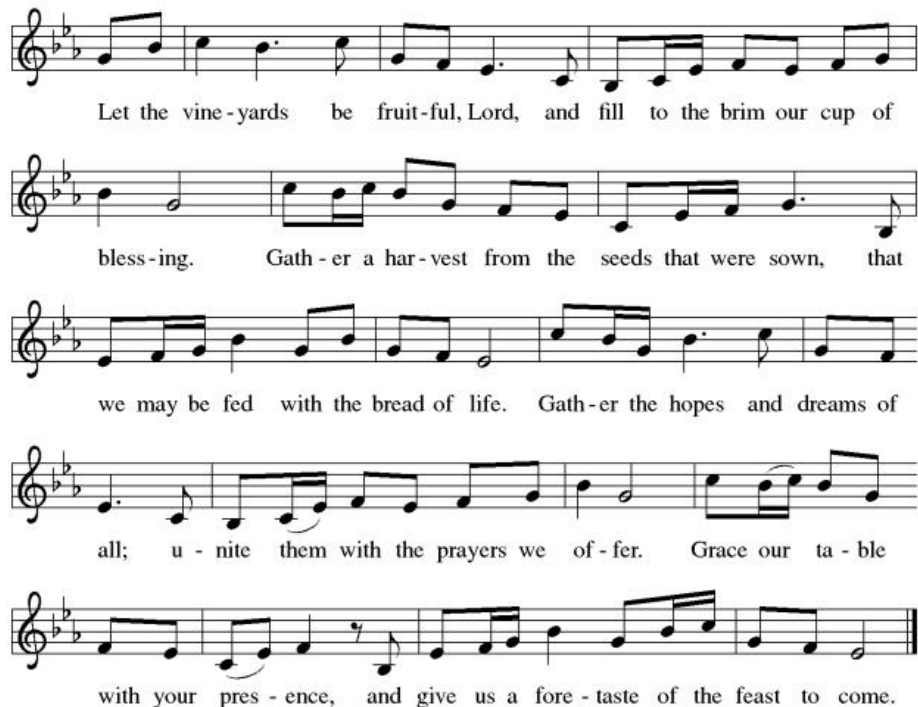
## **THE PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING & ANTHEM**

**Come Follow Me, by E. & S. Kupferschmid**

## 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:

**Merciful God,**

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." (Staff 1), "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." (Staff 2), "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." (Staff 3), and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." (Staff 4).

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of" (Staff 1), "pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -" (Staff 2), "san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the" (Staff 3), and "name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." (Staff 4).

## LORD'S PRAYER

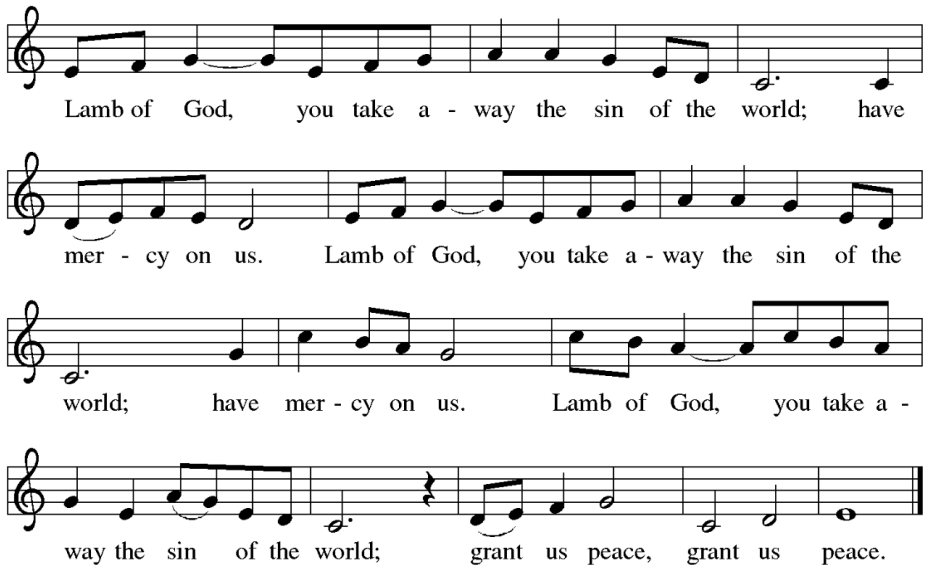
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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, 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, 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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### Here Is Bread

ELW 483

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

### Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 491

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord Amen.**

## BLESSING

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 369

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!**

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

# 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, 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, 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, Alyson, Sophie, and Avery Maas, Kathy McCoy, Debbie Mikes, Jean Morgan, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Chris Plue, 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, Michael Ware, and Erika Wesch

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

	<u>April 19<sup>th</sup></u>
Ushers	TBD
Reader	Karen Montag
Assisting Minister	Jeanne Gochnauer
Acolyte	TBD

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Clothing Bank** – We are looking for children’s spring clothing, sizes infant through 16 – especially for boys. Jeans and sweaters are also popular items in any size. Help is always needed on the second Tuesday morning of each month for unpacking, sorting and straightening up, as well as on the third Friday each month for the Give. Thanks again! Your help and donations are always appreciated.

### **Health Ministry News**

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2026 Lenten Project for Seasons of Hope for the Lutheran World Relief. We collected enough items to wrap 90 health kits this year; they were assembled during our intergenerational Holy Week celebration on Psalm Sunday. The kits will be sent along with our Lutheran World Relief quilts which are made at our church. They will be sent to all parts of the world and the United States. Wherever there is a need due to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or wars. Thank you again for all you do in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our next project will be a blood drive in September of 2026. Please watch for further information that will be coming soon. Please consider giving the gift of life for someone in need.

We need new people to help. You do not need a medical background to be part of this Health Ministry. There are only a few projects that we continue to do for the community. Please consider joining.

Cindy Shirey (610) 468-7411

**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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**The Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra** - will be in concert during our 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday, **April 26th**. Peter Brye serves as the Interim Conductor of this talented group of young musicians which rehearses at Reformation most Saturday mornings. The RSJSO will play the prelude, offertory and postlude. Invite a friend to worship for this special musical treat.

**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.

**Call Committee** – The Church Council would like to inform the congregation of the members serving on the Call Committee. These individuals have prayerfully agreed to take on the important responsibility of seeking and discerning candidates to fill our pastoral vacancy. The members of the committee are Elisha Barnett, Dan Bergey, Kevin Blackburn - Chair, Tim Dewalt, Sarah Dobroskey, and Heidi Rochlin. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they carry out this work, that they may be guided by wisdom, patience, and the Holy Spirit throughout the call process.

Information about the process can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please reach out to any member of the committee with questions.

Starting this Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, there is a congregational survey to complete to help inform our Ministry Site Profile. We ask that each individual complete the survey separately, as there are a few data points that need to be collected. If you need a paper copy or would like assistance completing the survey on a computer, members of the committee will be available on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Any member of the congregation can access the survey from this QR code or an email that will be sent tomorrow from the church office.

