

# 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
A Service of Word and Sacrament

April 19<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	Carole and Dale Miller
Reader	Karen Montag
Assisting Minister	Jeanne Gochnauer
Acolyte	Karen Montag
Altar Guild	Melanie Bechtel and the Barnett family
Flowers	Montag family-in honor of Mason Kemp's graduation from boot camp Rod & Patti Kline-in honor of our 61 <sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary
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 866**

**We Are Marching in the Light**

*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,

**O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and phrasing, with the lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below it. The piece ends with a double bar line.

## LUKE 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had

said, but they did not see him.”<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*The assembly may be seated.*

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**Day of Arising**

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

**ELW 374**

## 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.**

## 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: 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

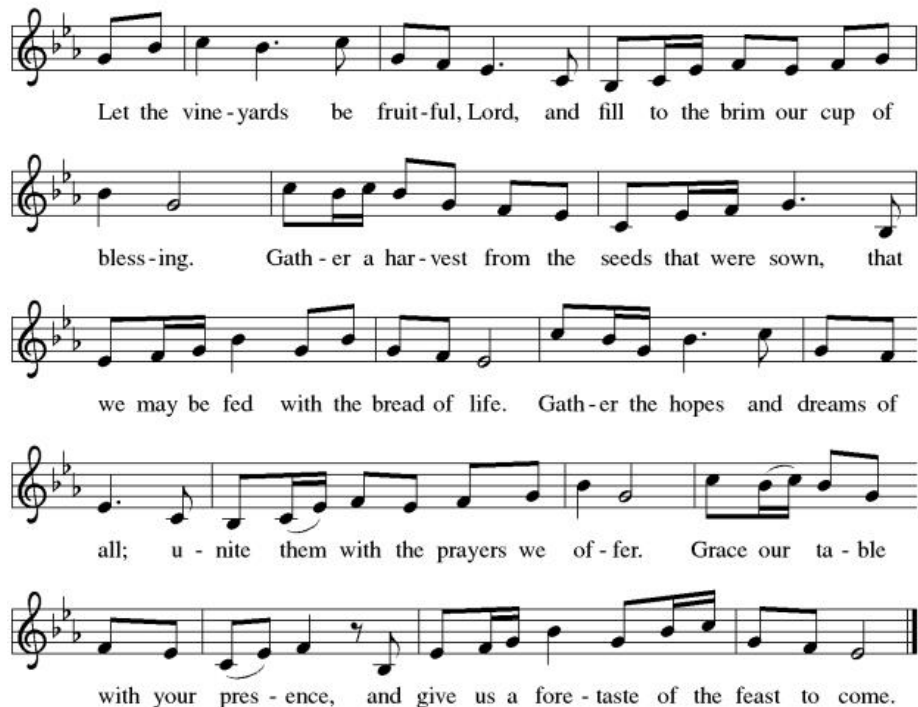
The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING & ANTHEM

**All Because of the Wonderful Cross, by Mary McDonald**

## 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

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.

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN:

C 31

**Shine, Jesus, Shine**

*Found in the spiral Contemporary Hymnal*

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## 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

We pray for our Call Committee as they listen and discern during this season of transition.

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

	<u>April 26<sup>th</sup></u>
Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin
Reader	Kathy Austin
Assisting Minister	Pam Schneeberger
Acolyte	TBD

**Remember to check out the sign-up sheets on the kiosk to volunteer as a worship assistant. We're always looking for new volunteers and can train anyone interested in trying a new role!**

## 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

**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.

**The Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra** - will be in concert during our 9:30 AM worship service next 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.

**COFFEE!?!-** Some folks have expressed a desire to have coffee available in the narthex every Sunday morning. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to take some turns setting up and/or cleaning up each week. We are hoping to set up a schedule. More volunteers mean fewer Sundays for each person. Please let us know if you can help. Thanks! Joanne and Shirley 610 796-9684

**Games Night** - Come out to the parish hall on Friday night, May 1st, from 7- 9:30ish and enjoy your favorite board game, card game, or any other type of game. This is open for all ages! We will be bringing a variety of games but we encourage you to bring some of your own favorites to share with the group. We will also be bringing some drinks and several snack items but if you would like to bring something to add to the snack table, that would be great. We hope to see you there for a fun night together. Feel free to bring a friend. Nadine and Alan Blackburn

**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.

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 today 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 was sent from the church office on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Consider removing this back page of your bulletin as a reminder to complete the survey! Our goal is at least 100 respondents. Thank you for your participation!

