

# 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

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

A Service of Word and Sacrament

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

9:30 AM



# Welcome to Reformation!

Guest Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Gregory Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
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Ushers	Charley and Jen Weaver
Reader	Jack Swartz
Assisting Minister	Judy Plica
Acolyte	Jen Weaver
Altar Guild	Heather McHale and Pam Schneeberger
Flowers	In memory of Joanne Reinhart-by husband, children, and grandchildren
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**ELW 668**

**O Zion, Haste**

*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 the unknown, Your mysteries are astounding. Give us knowledge where you see fit, and let us sit comfortably with that which we can never understand. Amen.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



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

### ACTS 17: 16-31

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this pretentious babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup> So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” <sup>20</sup> It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made

all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*The assembly may be seated.*

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 737

**He Comes to Us as One Unknown**  
*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.

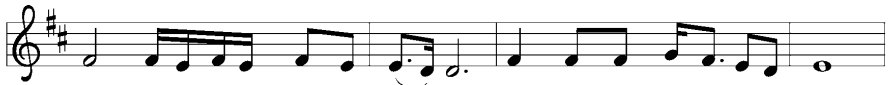
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

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.

### 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.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## OFFERING & ANTHEM

**Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord**, by *Don Besig*

*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



bles-sing. 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



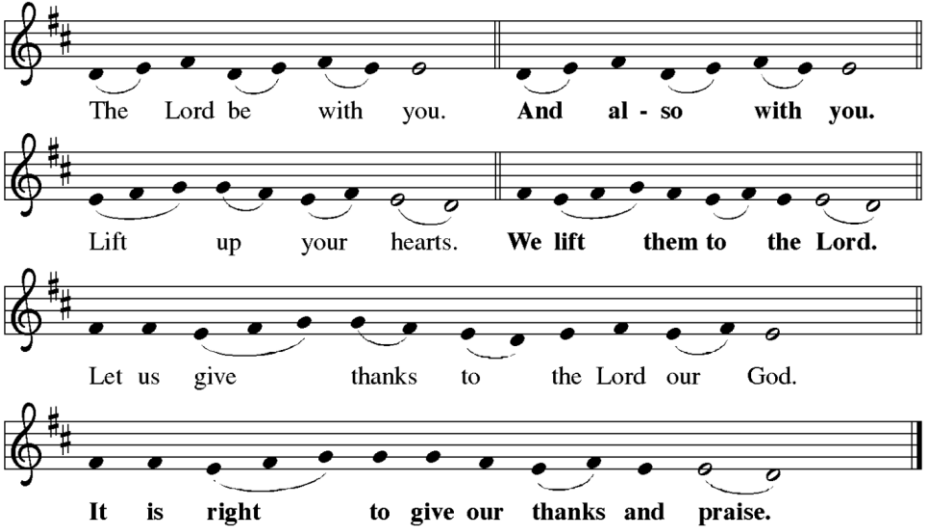
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## 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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and slurs.

## 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.

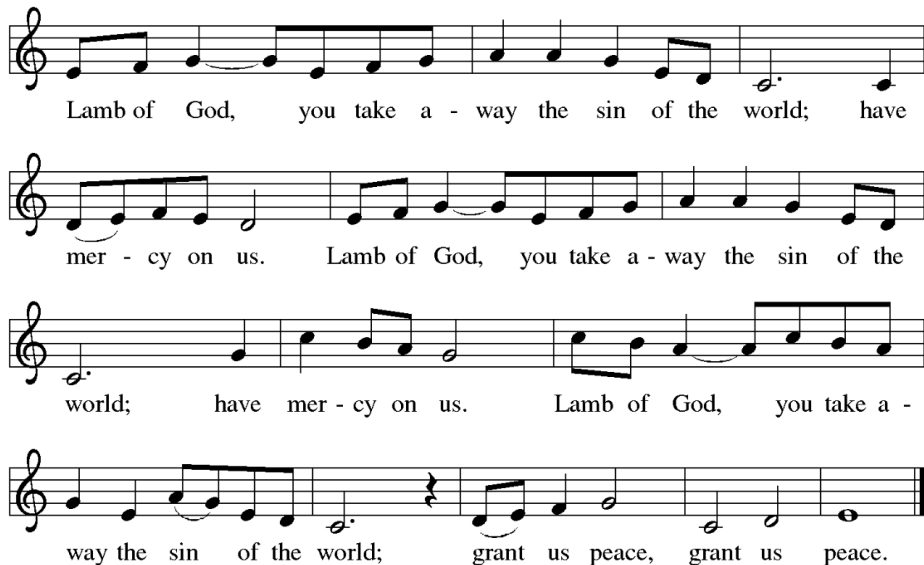
## LORD'S PRAYER

**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

### Everyday God

Earth's creator, Everyday God,  
Loving Maker, O Jesus,  
You who shaped us, O Spirit,  
Recreate us, Come, be with us.

In your presence, Everyday God,  
We are gathered, O Jesus,  
You have called us, O Spirit,  
To restore us, Come, be with us.

Life of all lives, Everyday God,  
Love of all loves, O Jesus,  
Hope of all hopes, O Spirit,  
Light of all lights, Come, be with  
us.

In our resting, Everyday God,  
In our rising, O Jesus,  
In our hoping, O Spirit,  
In our waiting, Come, be with us.

In our dreaming, Everyday God,  
In our daring, O Jesus,  
In our searching, O Spirit,  
In our sharing, Come, be with us.

God of laughter, Everyday God,  
God of sorrow, O Jesus,  
Home and shelter, O Spirit,  
Strong and patient, Come, be with  
us.

Way of freedom, Everyday God,  
Star of morning, O Jesus,  
Timeless healer, O Spirit,  
Flame eternal, Come, be with us.

Gentle father, Everyday God,  
Faithful brother, O Jesus,  
Tender sister, O Spirit.  
Loving mother, Come, be with us.

Word of gladness, Everyday God,  
Word of mercy, O Jesus,  
Word of friendship, O Spirit,  
Word of challenge, Come, be with  
us.

Our beginning, Everyday God,  
Our unfolding, O Jesus,  
Our enduring, O Spirit,  
Journey's ending, Come, be with  
us.

Alleluia, Everyday God,  
Now and always, O Jesus,  
Alleluia, O Spirit,  
Through all ages, Come, be with  
us.

## **In Christ Alone**

**C 18**

*Found in the Contemporary Spiral Book*

*The assembly stands.*

### **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:**

**ELW 588**

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

*Found in the Red Hymnal*

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

A brief Service of Healing will be held following the postlude.

# PRAYER LIST

Added – Tom Brizek

**Reformation Family:** Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, 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>May 10<sup>th</sup></u>
Ushers	Pam Schneeberger and Bruce Seiz
Reader	Alan Blackburn
Assisting Minister	Alan Blackburn
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.

**Please Note:-** We will NOT be working at the Clothing Bank on **Tuesday, May 12th**. We will be there on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning again on June 9th. Thanks so much! Joanne and Shirley

**Health Ministry News** – 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

**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

**Scholarship** – College scholarship application and essay are due by May 15, 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year. A copy of the application can be found on the church website on the Committees page. Please submit to Dan Bergey at dan09dan@aol.com or to the church office at mail@reformationlutheran.org or drop off the physical copy at the office.

**The Property Committee** – Invites you join us on Saturday, May 9th, beginning at 8:30 AM, for our annual Spring Cleanup of the grounds surrounding our building. Bring your tools (labeled with your name). Coffee, water and doughnuts will be provided.

**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

**Pentecost Geraniums** – are \$7.00 per pot. Orders must be in by Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

**Reformation Home Gardener's School** – will be starting up for the year on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Rich Hawk's house (112 E. 35<sup>th</sup> St.) If you are interested in joining our meeting, please let Rich know by email ([rich@dieboltlandscape.com](mailto:rich@dieboltlandscape.com)) or text/call at 610-342-5186. Thanks! The first class will be centered on pruning but we can entertain any questions the group may have.

**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. Thank you to all who completed the survey to share your input as the Ministry Site Profile is created.