

# 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

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
A Service of Word and Sacrament

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
9:30 AM



*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

# Welcome to Reformation!

|                     |                                                                      |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Presiding Minister: | The Rev. Dr. Gregory Stoddard                                        |
| Director of Music:  | Dr. Heidi Rochlin                                                    |
| <hr/>               |                                                                      |
| Ushers              | Dale and Carole Miller                                               |
| Reader              | John Bayer                                                           |
| Assisting Minister  | Dee Dee Werner                                                       |
| Acolyte             | Kevin Blackburn                                                      |
| Altar Guild         | Cindy & Dave Shirey and Kathy & Charles Miller                       |
| Flowers             | The Reinhart and Gochnauer families- in memory<br>of Joanne Reinhart |
| Live streaming      | Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy<br>Dobroskey          |

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,  
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

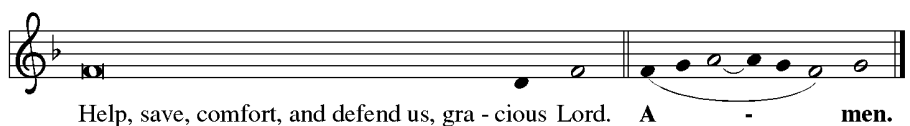
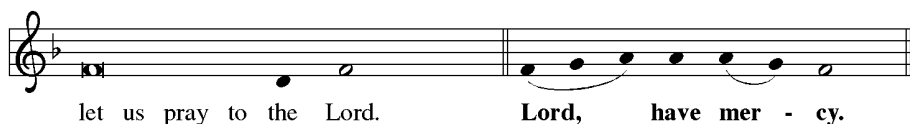
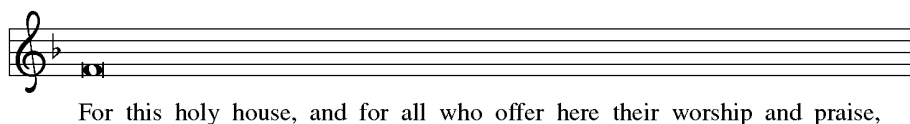
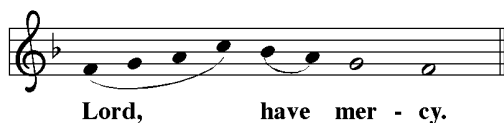
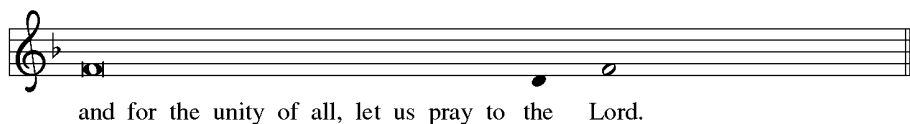
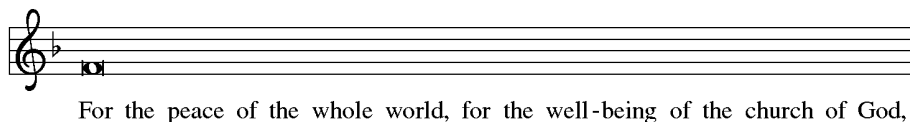
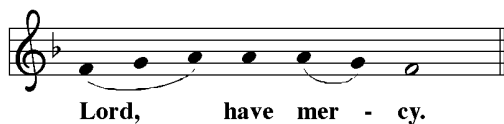
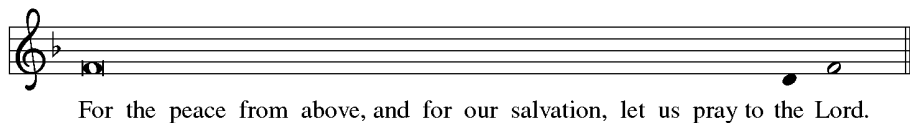
**All My Hope on God Is Founded***Found in the Red Hymnal*

- 1 All my hope on God is founded  
who will all my trust renew,  
who through change and chance will guide me,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, God alone,  
call my heart to be thine own.
- 2 Mortal pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.  
But thy pow'r, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tow'r.
- 3 Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;  
deep thy wisdom, passing thought;  
splendor, light, and life attend thee,  
beauty springing out of naught.  
Evermore from thy store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.
- 4 Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of God's own Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

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:



## GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

A11



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,      you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **FIRST READING – ISAIAH 45:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and to strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup> I will go before you  
and level the mountains;  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron;

<sup>3</sup> I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup> For the sake of my servant Jacob  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name;  
I give you a title, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup> I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup> so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

**PSALM 96:1-9** (This will be read in unison.)

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord | a new song;  
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods. R
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

**SECOND READING – 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- <sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup> For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

*The assembly stands.*



## **GOSPEL – MATTHEW 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” <sup>21</sup> They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

## Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## 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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world..

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## OFFERING & ANTHEM

## O God, My Faithful God, *by Hildebrand*

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyard be Fruitful Lord**

**ELW 182**

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 the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

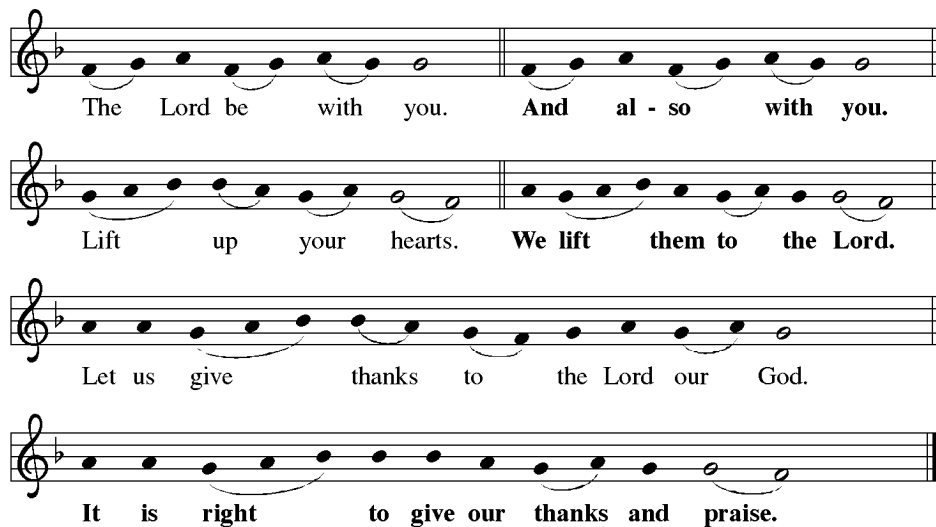
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



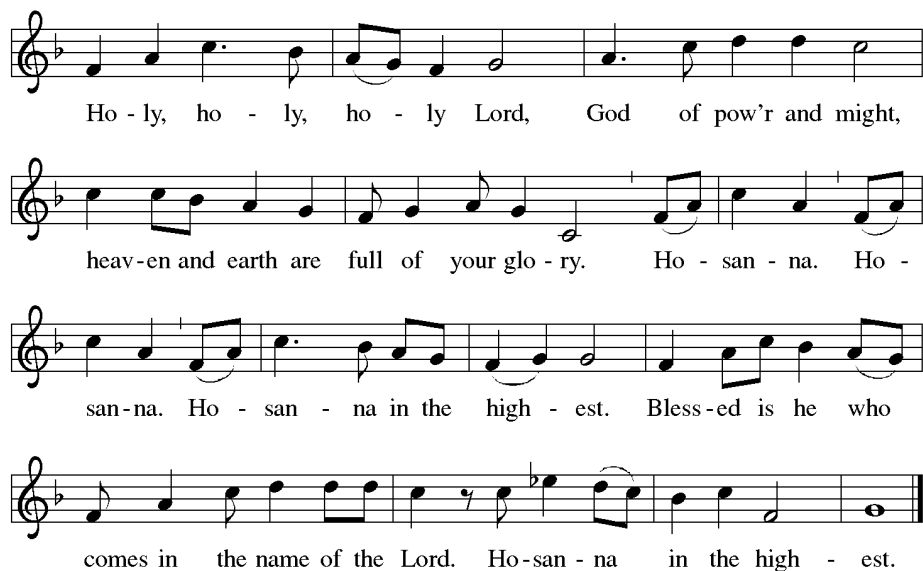
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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.**

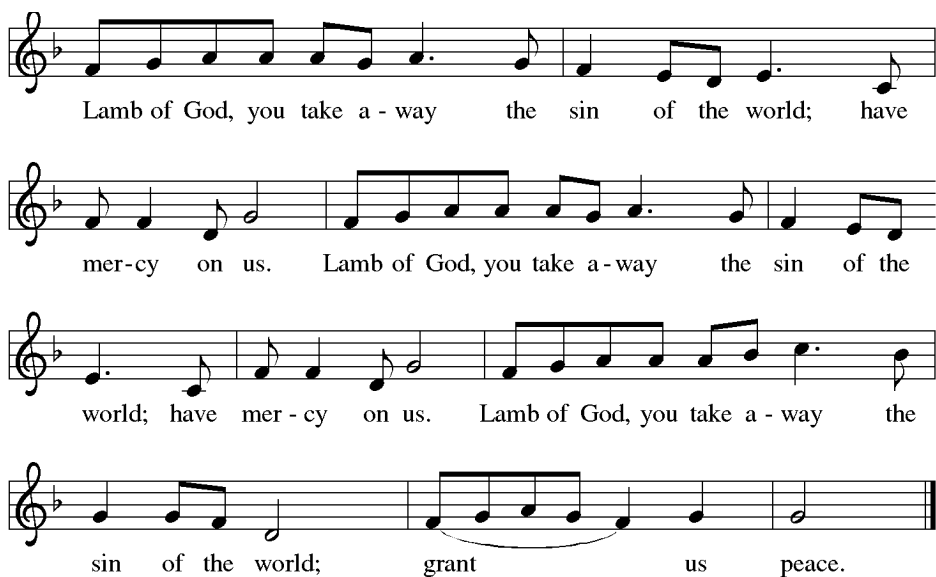
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION & COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

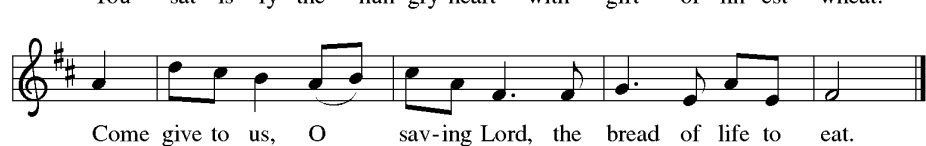
### You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

*Refrain*



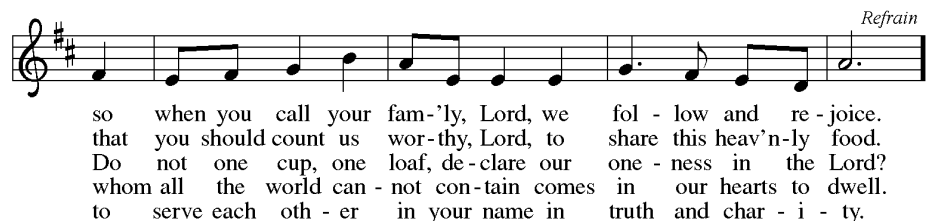
You sat - is - fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

*Refrain*



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

# O God, You Search Me

ACS 1082



1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.  
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,  
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.  
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,  
you have known its mean - ing through and through.  
still I search for shel - ter from your light.  
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:  
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:  
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:  
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:  
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.  
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.  
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

## Thy Word

C 37

### Chorus:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end [Chorus]

I will not forget your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end [Chorus]

*The assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – Tina Little

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, Millie Castillo, Audrey DiGuardi, Bob Galbraith, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Maddie Kemp, Nancy Kern, Rod and Patti Kline, Tina Little, Cheryl Manella, Jocelyn Quaintance, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Jack Swartz, Erica Sweigert, and Herb Zettlemyer,

Friends of Reformation: Thomas Allmon, Linda Barnett, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Zena Burkert, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr. Bernadette Dieumegard, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Anthony Gross, 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, Mike Mirenda, Tom Mulvey, 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, Taylor Tenuta, and Grace Vetter

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

Next Week’s Worship Leaders:

October 25<sup>th</sup>

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ushers             | Joanne Scattergood and Shirley Harner |
| Reader             | Terri Adams                           |
| Assisting Minister | Judy Plica                            |
| Acolyte            | To be determined                      |

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School** – Sunday School for our Youngest Learners will meet today in the Social Hall after service. Join us for music, snack, and a lesson on trick or treat!

**College and Military Care Packages** - Reformation is once again mailing Care Packages to students attending college and to those serving in the military. If someone in your family meets this criteria and they would like to receive a Care Package this Fall, please email the information below to Alicia Bergey at [smittyfh@hotmail.com](mailto:smittyfh@hotmail.com). Deadline for submission is Sunday, October 25th. Packages will be mailed after Halloween.

Student name

Mailing address (PO boxes are okay)

Year of graduation

**Our Book Club** will meet on Thursday, October 29th at 7PM in the parlor. The book is *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston.

**Health Ministry News** – Today, October 18<sup>th</sup>, after church, we will meet in the social hall. We will be planning for the coming year. Everyone is welcome. You do not have to have any medical background. Thank you.

**NOTE OF THANKS** - Many thanks to all those who helped load all the boxes containing 149 quilts and 90 personal care kits last weekend. Special thanks to Pastor Greg Stoddard who secured the U-Haul and transported all these items to Bergstrasse Lutheran Church, near Ephrata, a collection point for all Lutheran World Relief items.

**Nominating Committee:** This short article is designed to invite and briefly inform. Contained in the Listening Team final report, someone asked about church committees and processes. Today we timely spotlight the Nominating Committee.

**Basis - Church Constitution - Chapter 13 C13.02.** A Nominating Committee of three (3) voting members of this congregation, two [2] of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation council.....Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

### **Discussion:**

Each year, approximately 1-4 members of the current church council complete their elected three [3] year term. On a yearly basis, a nominating committee is formed to seek out members of the congregation, willing and able, to serve on the church council.

The council occupies a critical position within the church. It oversees the ministry, finances, property, and general administration of the church. Church council members, through their faithful stewardship of their time and talents are part of the leadership team of the church, comprised of the Pastor and Congregational Council.

### **Action-Response**

If you are approached by a Nominating Committee member, please strongly consider the importance of their task, respond and consider the following:

- a. Understand they are approaching you because they believe you have the talents necessary to fill an important job [young or adult];
- b. They know it will require time, but, also know no one council member is “on an island”. Assistance and advice is quickly and easily available; and
- c. Remember, the church is a living entity which needs leadership, motivation, understanding and patience.

### **Summary**

As has often been stated in previous bulletins and newsletters:

***“You are the Church”***

Become part of the leadership team and help us be the church God wants us to be.  
True leadership comes from trusting in God

**Bible Verse:** Proverbs 11:14 "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

**Prayer:** "Lord, grant me the wisdom to lead with justice and the compassion to serve those who look to me for guidance"

**From the Property Committee** - Our sexton, Tony Barrasso, has announced his resignation effective October 31st. We thank Tony for his dedicated service these past five years. A search is underway for this part-time (up to 10 hours) per week position which involves light maintenance and groundskeeping duties. Please speak with Pastor Greg, Tim Dewalt or Dale Miller if you are aware of a possible candidate.

