Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue
Reading, PA 19606
www.reformationlutheran.org
Office (610) 779-0534
Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

24th Sunday after Pentecost **November 8th, 2026**
A Service of Word and Sacrament **9:30 AM**



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Welcome to Reformation!

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

Ushers	Dale and Carole Miller
Reader	Teri Stoddard
Assisting Minister	Pam Schneeberger
Acolyte	Paige Bergey
Altar Guild	Cynthia Smoker Johnston – Steve & Elisha Barnett
Flowers	not sponsored
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME

PRELUDE – Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: **ELW 438**

My Lord, What a Morning



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

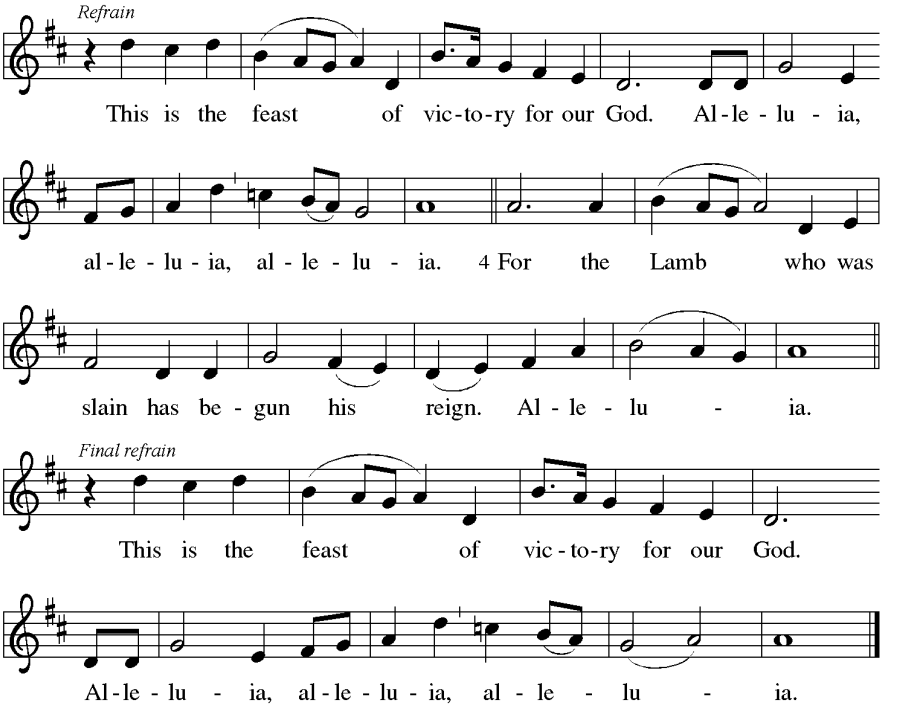
And also with you.

KYRIE:


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – AMOS 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

PSALM 70 (This will be read in unison.)

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

SECOND READING – 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The assembly stands.



GOSPEL – MATTHEW 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: **ACS 951**

Deep River



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



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING – Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyard be Fruitful Lord ELW 182

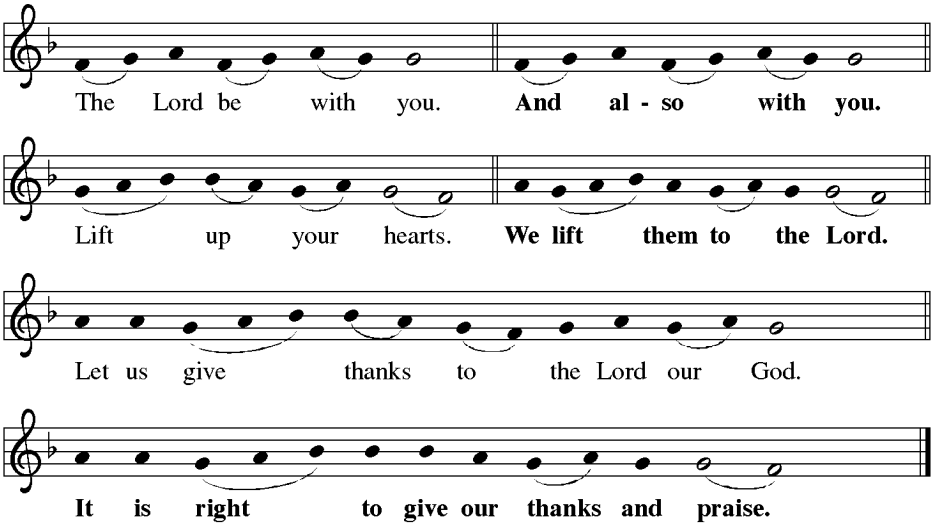


OFFERING PRAYER

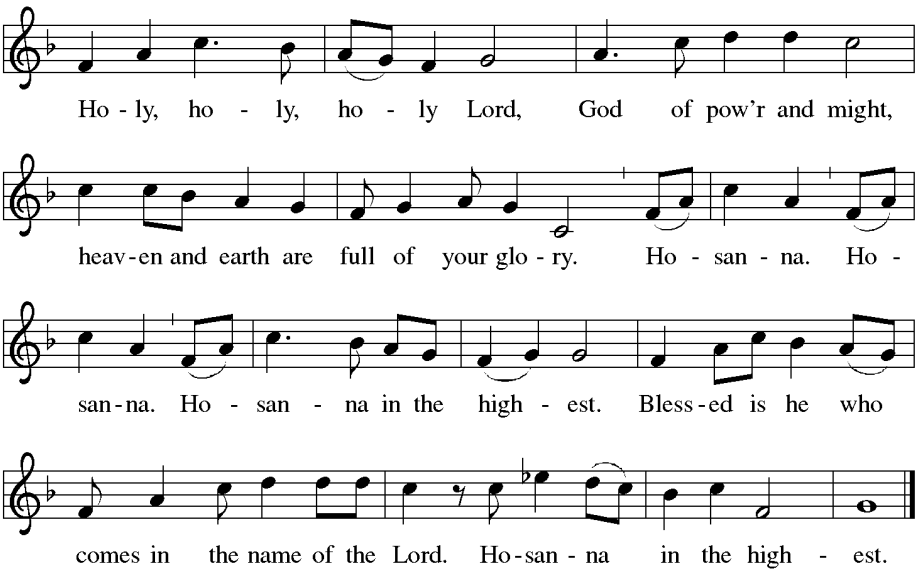
Let us pray:

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

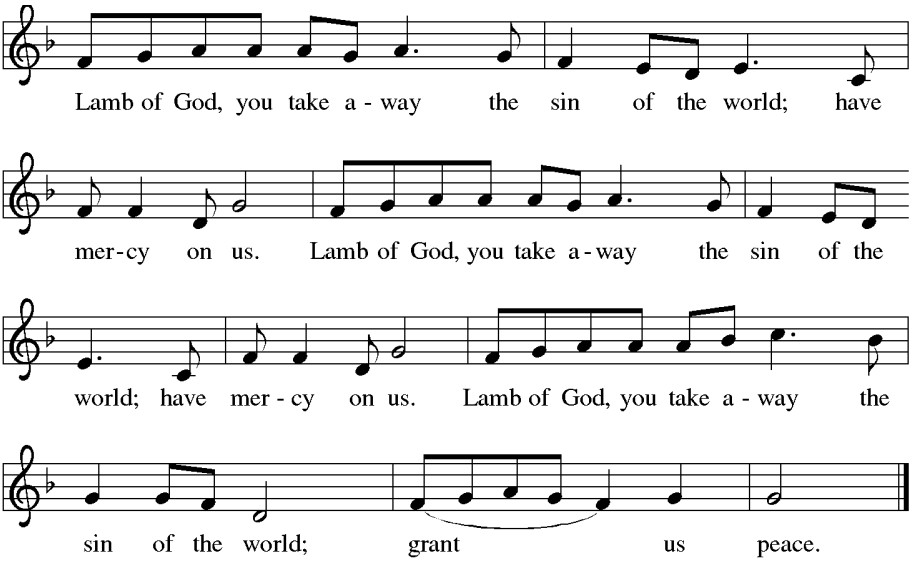
LORD'S PRAYER

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

We will communion continuously by way of the center aisle. Please follow the directions of the ushers and return to your seat by way of the side aisles.
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.



COMMUNION HYMNS

When Peace like a River — ELW 785



Lord, I Lift Your Name on High **ELW 857**

Music can be found in the Red Hymnal

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken **ACS 966**



The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: **ELW 638**

Blessed Assurance



The assembly may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra

The Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra (RSJSO) is a developmental ensemble for advanced fourth through eighth grade string students of Berks County and surrounding areas. Their director is Bryan Sanguinito, a graduate of Millersville University, who teaches string orchestra in the Reading School District and is a published string orchestra composer. Reformation is happy to provide rehearsal space for the RSJSO most Saturday mornings. Welcome members and family of the RSJSO!

PRAYER LIST

Added – none

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

Friends of Reformation: Thomas Allmon, Linda Barnett, Sandy Bender, Don Bickel, 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:

November 15th

Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Jeanne Gochnauer
Acolyte	Brion Morrissey and Ethan Pasko

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Devotional – The sign-up sheet is hanging in the narthex to write for our Advent Devotional. Writings are due **TODAY** to Elisha Barnett at scrapgirl.elisha@gmail.com.

Dinner Out - Our next Dinner Out is Thursday, November 12th, at Vincenzo's Ristorante, 1333 Old Swede Road, Douglassville, at 6 PM. **Please note - It is very important that all reservations be either called in or e-mailed to the office (mail@reformationlutheran.org) no later than Tuesday, November 10th. This avoids any issues that could arise with the restaurant. Thank you!

Prepare! An Intergenerational Advent Workshop will be held on Sunday, November 29th beginning at 10:35 AM in the Parish Hall. Join us for crafts, fresh Advent wreath-making, take home devotionals, Advent calendars, as well as a mini-music workshop for our youngest learners and refreshments!

Thanksgiving Basket Project - We will again be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the Exeter School District. There are leaves on the bulletin board near the kitchen with items needed for the baskets attached on them.
Choose as many items that you would like to donate. Bring the items in and place them in the boxes on the floor underneath the bulletin board. All items must be brought in by Sunday, Nov. 15. One of the items that we provide with the baskets is a turkey. We are asking if anyone in the congregation who might be receiving a free turkey from work (or anywhere else) or you get a coupon for a turkey that you consider

donating it to the Thanksgiving basket project. If you do want to donate a turkey, contact Terry Trumbauer (610-582-5950 or terryt@dejazzd.com). The final way you can help is with the delivery of the baskets. If you have a van or a SUV and are available for about 2 hours on Monday, Nov. 23 and would like to help me deliver the baskets to the Exeter Administration building, you can call or e-mail me about the details with making the deliveries. Thank you!

Fall Clothing Drive for the Clothing Bank - For the fall season, we are collecting the following items:

- Children: Long pants and long-sleeved shirts
- Adults: Jeans, sweatpants, yoga pants, t-shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, coats, and shoes

Donations can be placed in the box near the back door vestibule.

11th Annual Toy Give for Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry on December 11, 2026

Each year the number of children and families served grows larger. Your generosity has made it possible for us to continue to provide gifts for hundreds of children in our community each year. Please consider purchasing a toy or toys for the children.

- Infant to 13 years old:

  Toys, games, puzzles, dolls, cars, trucks, building sets, art supplies, Barbies, Legos, etc.

- Teenagers:

  Make-up sets, nail care sets, shaving sets, cologne sets, perfume sets, hand cream and body wash sets, adult art sets (fine tip markers, graphic pencils, colored pens). Teenagers will also receive a gift card to a local store from our generous partner: "Hack Away at Hunger"

Donations of hats, socks, gloves and scarves for all ages as well as gently used and new books are also appreciated.

Drop your gifts in the toy donation box at Reformation.

Additional information [monetary contributions, Amazon Wish List] on the toy drive can be found on a flier in the narthex. Be sure to pick one up. If you have any questions please contact:

Doris Jaeger: 610-780-9825; bdj43077@msn.com

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church Office: 610-779-3480

Please bring all donations no later than December 4th.

Welcome Steve Jablonski! Steve is our new sexton. He and his wife, Lidia, reside in St. Lawrence and are the proud parents of six children, sixteen grandchildren and one great grandson! He attended the Reading School District and Kutztown State College. Steve served as a general manager for Burger King for forty plus years and most recently was employed as a bus driver for the Exeter Township School District. His favorite hobby is gardening. “I’m grateful for this opportunity and look forward to helping the people of Reformation along the way.”

