

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-2:00pm, Monday–Friday

Susan Bozak

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 am service

You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at www.rlcMilford.com/connect.

We have hearing assistance devices available. Please ask an Usher if you would like to use one to help with hearing the service.

Please silence your cell phone before worship begins. Thank you.

Welcome to Reformation!

We are especially glad to welcome visitors to worship. We hope you experience God's love for you this morning! Visitors are invited to sign the pew pads so we can be in touch with you.

Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the usher's directions to come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the server. Those who do not yet receive Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Lutherans believe that in Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, the renewal of our faith, and the strengthening of our Christian community. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayers of the Church, please write their name on the list behind the altar.

***"Being transformed by Jesus so that, through us,
he is transforming the world."***

Reformation's Mission is to:

Welcome people to faith. Make disciples. Live what we believe.

There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-12 (read in unison)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel**

John 12:20-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" **No. 332**

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

***The 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.**

Meal

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

Collection of the Offering

Musical Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”

No. 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray:

C: **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Proper Preface

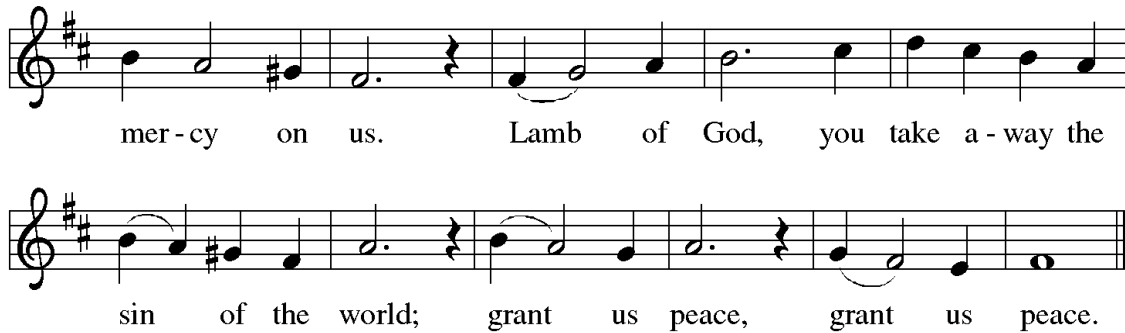
*"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

*The Words of Institution

"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.

The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: No. 542, "O Living Bread from Heaven;" No. 474, "Bread of Life from Heaven;" No. 638, "Blessed Assurance;" No. 592, "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" **No. 547**

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

March 17	8:30	11:00
Usher	Soren Evers	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Sandi Shea	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	David Curnock	David Krantz
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Piatkowski	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers & Isabella Valentine	
Fellowship Host	Karen Oldland	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

March 24	8:30	11:00
Usher	Karolyn Hayes & Noah McDougall	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Stacy Himler	Diane Massey
Worship Assistant	Pamela Curnock	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Dianna Smith	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Jeremy & Eli Rakow	
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:30 pm	Easter Egg Hunt Setup
	2:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Saturday	10:00 am	Senior Quilts (Annex)

Continued on next page

Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)	8:30 am	Worship Service <i>Gather in Fellowship Hall</i>
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service <i>Gather in Fellowship Hall</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lutheran Campus Ministry Visit Today: We are delighted to welcome a special visitor in worship. Mindy Holland, a Minister of Word and Service called as chaplain to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware,. Lutheran Campus Ministry is one of the many ministries of the wider church that you support through your gifts and offerings toward “Benevolence,” or mission support, for our Delaware-Maryland Synod. Mindy will also be available during the Fellowship time and Adult Bible Study to talk one-on-one.

Financial Update: Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries. For the month of February 2024, budget income exceeded budget expenses. A summary of Income and Expenses for February is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is TODAY at 2:00 p.m.! (Raindate is March 23 at 2 p.m.) Children age 10 and younger are invited to come and hunt for eggs with candy and other prizes. Our Youth do a wonderful job hosting this Egg Hunt every year. Invite your friends and neighbors!

New Ministry! Dinner Fellowship Groups will be starting at Reformation in April. We have many members who live outside of Milford, and we want you to have a chance to get to know others who live near you. Dinner Fellowship Groups will be hosted in homes once a month. The focus will be the meal and fellowship, with a couple of “get to know you” questions offered by the group’s coordinator. The group can decide when and where to meet, and the coordinator will send out the details to everyone. Check out the table in the Narthex to see the groups and sign up, and you can offer to host or serve as a coordinator as well. Friends from outside Reformation are welcome to come and get to know the warmth and hospitality of a church community. Please speak with Pastor Paige or Pastor Eric with any questions.

From the Christian Service Committee: The CSC is collecting for victims of domestic violence during the month of March. They can use the following items: gas or Walmart gift cards, twin size sheets and blankets, bed pillows, baby wipes, bath towels, wash cloths, pajamas, duffle bags, and suitcases. Any financial donations can be made online at <https://peoplesplace2.com/ways-to-give/>

Save the date for **Vacation Bible School** for families to attend together: June 17-20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. each night. We'll be going to "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid" for our VBS theme this year! Please join us with your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors! To volunteer at VBS (middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults), please contact Pastor Paige.

There will be a meeting of **Senior Quilters** on Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex. Contact: Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick, (302) 466-7245.

Electronic Giving: Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at www.rlcMilford.com/give you will be given the **option** to add an additional 1.9% of your donation to your contribution to help defray some of the electronic giving fee. Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries!

Give By Text: You can support Reformation by sending a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and following the instructions you receive back. However you give, your support matters! Thank you!

Sign Up for Church News! If you aren't receiving Reformation news through Constant Contact, please send an email to Pastor Eric at pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Happy Birthday to: Margo Ranney on the 19th; Juli McDuff and Jill Racz on the 20th; and Cathy Zimmerman on the 23rd. **Happy Anniversary to:** Gary & Lisa Johnson on the 19th and Ed & Kim Huey on the 21st.