

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware, 19963



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Phone: 302-422-9117

[www.rlcmilford.com](http://www.rlcmilford.com)

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

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**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](http://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.**

## Announcements

### Prelude

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather... Most merciful God:

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

P:...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

\*Gathering Hymn            "The Day of Resurrection!"            No. 361

### \*Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

\*Hymn of Praise (*In unison*)            "This Is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and




strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** Amen.

**Children's Sermon**

**First Reading**

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

<sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup>He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 22:25-31** (read in unison)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup>And proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

## Second Reading

## 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.<sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

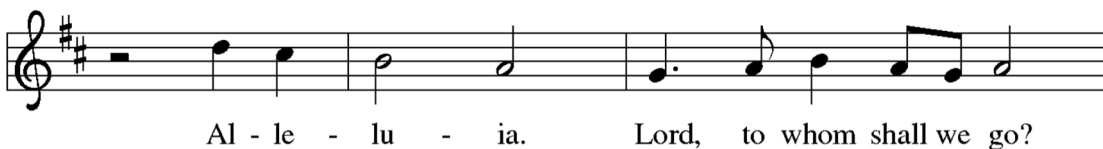
<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.<sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.<sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.<sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.<sup>20</sup>Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.<sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### \*Gospel Acclamation



**\*Gospel**

**John 15:1-8**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.<sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Paige G. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

**No. 658**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Lord, in your mercy, **C:** Hear our prayer.

**\*The Lord’s Prayer** (*Prayed together*)

**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.**

**\*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**      “God is Love” (Quartet)      8:30  
   “Let the Praise Go Round” (Choir)      11:00

**\*Offertory**      “Create in Me a Clean Heart”      **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. 881, "Let All Things Now Living"; No. 379, "Now the Green Blade Rises;" No. 690, "We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord;" No. 860, "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**  
*The congregation responds Amen.*

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**  
*The congregation responds Amen.*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Hymn** “Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds” **No. 367**

**\*Dismissal**

**Postlude**

*Thank you to our quartet this morning: Sally Newell, Carol Benner-Chaffinch, Mickey Chaffinch and Ken Newell.*

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### **THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION**

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	New Members' Class & Fellowship
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday	12:00 pm	WELCA Lunch at Surf & Turf
	6:00 pm	Loderhose Trust Committee
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Saturday	7:00 pm	Campfire Night
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Bible Study & Fellowship
	9:45 am	First Communion Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Members' Class:** Our 3-week new members' class continues today between services at 9:45. If you are interested in learning more about the mission and ministry of Reformation, we encourage you to join us! Existing members are also encouraged to attend in order to meet new members and help reflect on our life together as a congregation.

**Financial Update:** Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries. For the month of March 2024, expenses exceeded income. A summary of Income and Expenses for March, along with a **First Quarter Budget Report**, is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

**WELCA Lunch:** Guess who's turning 68 in May. Reformation's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) that's who. Please join us at the Surf & Turf restaurant in Milford on May 2 at noon as we celebrate our 68th Birthday. All Reformation ladies are invited to attend. RSVP by April 30 by signing up on the sign-up sheet found on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or by contacting Cheryl Altares at 717-805-9932. We look forward to seeing you. Attendees will pay for their own lunch, but birthday cake will be provided by WELCA.

**Campfire Night:** All ages are invited to come to church on Saturday, May 4 at 7 pm for a fun night outdoors around a fire. Bring your own chair and enjoy S'mores, fellowship, and fun.

**The CSC** would like to thank the volunteer sewers who assisted in making 46 drawstring backpacks, and everyone who donated household items to the victims of domestic violence during April

Save the date for **Vacation Bible School** for families to attend together: June 17-20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. 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, please contact Pastor Paige.

**Newspaper Donations Requested:** Kids Inc., our day care ministry, will be making floral decorations for their room with newspapers. If you have any newspapers, we would appreciate the donation. There is a collection bin in the narthex. Thank you!

**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](mailto:pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net). It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

**Happy Birthday to:** Debbie Davis on 4/29 and Mary Currie on 5/3.

### SERVING TODAY

<b>April 28</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Soren Evers & Noah McDougall	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Jeff Lockard	Rod Kopp
Worship Assistant	Chris Antonik	Trish Boyer
Acolyte		
Healing Prayer		Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>May 5</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Karen Oldland	Ed Huey
Lay Reader	Karolyn Hayes	David Krantz
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	Soren Evers	
Healing Prayer	Sandi Shea	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers	
Fellowship Host	Mary Lu Wilson	