

April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue
Milford, Delaware, 19963

Phone: 302-422-9117

www.rlcmilford.com

Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors



Spread the word!

Please follow our church on Instagram: [@rlcmilford](https://www.instagram.com/rlcmilford)

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

www.facebook.com/RLCMilford

Check in and **tweet** or post about what’s going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

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

“God Is Here!”

No. 526

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.



All
1 Wor-ty 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 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (read in unison)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel**John 10:1-10****P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

Pastor Paige G. Evers

Hymn of the Day “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**No. 502****Nicene Creed** *(Recited together)*

8:30

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Rite of Holy Baptism for Havalah Rakow

11:00

Prayers of Intercession

P: 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.**

The Peace

Special Music

"If We Truly Believe"

Choir 11:00

"Let us come to the table of the Lord,
He bids us pause and leave our troubles here.
As we bow in prayer,
the comfort of these words gives us strength to lay aside our
fears...
This is the hope that can set our spirits free,
if we truly believe."

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

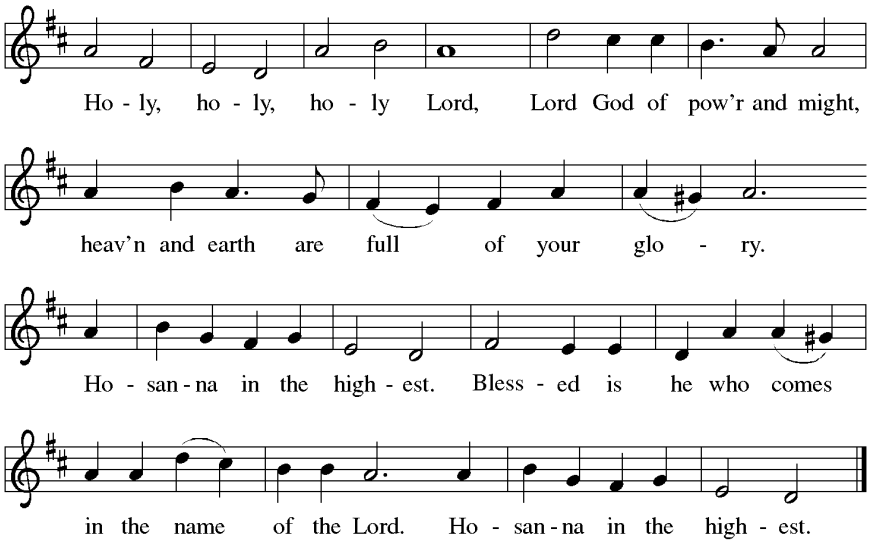
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Proper Preface

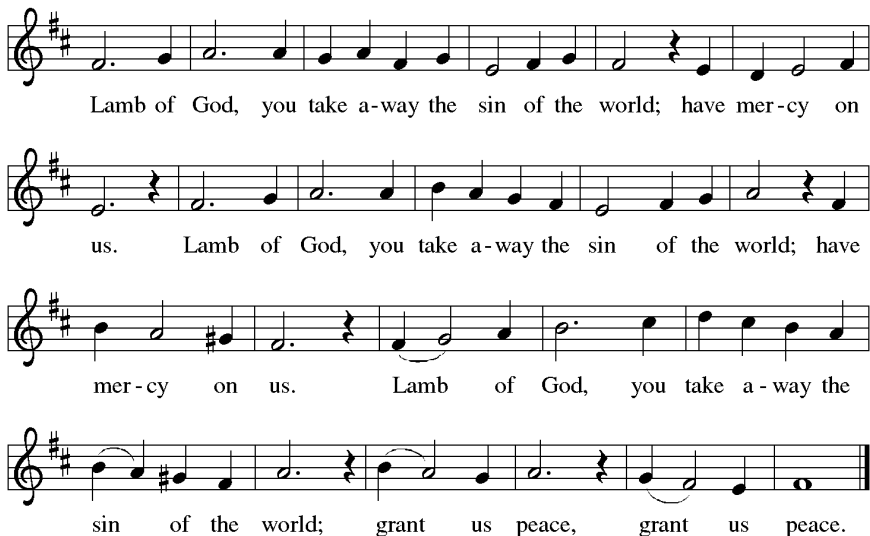
“Holy, Holy, Holy”



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.

Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart,” No. 484
“We Walk by Faith,” No. 635; “Have No Fear, Little Flock,” No.
764, “When Peace like a River,” No. 785

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Recessional Hymn “I Know that My Redeemer Lives!” (vs.1-4) No. 619

Dismissal

Postlude

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Thank you for placing your offering in the plate in the Narthex. For information about electronic giving, please visit www.rlcmilford.com/give.

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service and Rite of Baptism
Thursday	12:00 pm — WELCA Birthday Luncheon <i>(at Surf & Turf)</i>
	6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	7:30 pm — Campfire Night
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study and Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service

SERVING TODAY

April 30	8:30	11:00
Usher	Janice Weiner	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Sigrid Evers	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Dave Curnock	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte		Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer		
Altar Guild	Eric Valentine	Lisa Caccamise
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

May 7	8:30	11:00
Usher	Chris & Melissa Miller	Ed Huey
Lay Reader	Chris Antonik	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	Kristin Schlegel	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer		
Altar Guild	Janice Piatkowski	Deb Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville	
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Campfire Night on Saturday! All ages are invited to come to church on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. for a fun night outdoors around a fire. Bring your own chair and enjoy S'mores, fellowship, and fun. Contact Pastor Paige or a member of the Growing Young Team for more details. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Join Us for Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study from 9:45 to 10:45 on Sunday mornings. Bible Study returns next week. Everyone is welcome!

Senior Quilt: You are invited to sign the Senior Quilt for Jack Pencek on display in the Narthex. We will present the quilt to Jack on Sunday, May 21, at the 8:30 am worship service. Thank you to Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick and the entire Senior Quilt committee for their beautiful handiwork.

News from the Christian Service Committee: For the month of May, we are collecting items for two animal shelters. You may bring your donations of knuckle bones, toys, treats like Pupperoni, canned, dye-free pet food, kitty litter, puppy pads and cleaning supplies. Donations will be taken to the First State Shelter in Camden and to the Wicomico Shelter. You can check out First State at www.fsac-spca and Wicomico at www.wicomicohumane.org. You can also help by adopting not shopping, spaying and neutering, and volunteering. The Wicomico facility is overcrowded and is seeking foster families, or folks who are willing to do a day trip or a sleepover. Contact Sherry Titherington, pegasus67912@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Vacation Bible School for families will be held June 19-22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Registration is now open at www.rlcmilford.com/vbs. Children of all ages are invited to come and have a blast at our space-theme VBS, and grow in faith with their parents and grandparents and their friends at church!

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, and he will add you to this distribution list. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Daily Devotional Guide: Every Sunday afternoon, we post a daily guide for Bible readings and reflections, psalms to read and pray, and prayer suggestions. You can find it on our website: www.rlcmilford.com/connect. We also offer a few printed copies in the narthex. We hope you will make use of this spiritual resource to grow in your faith!

Happy Birthday to: Mary Curry on May 3rd and Emmerson Smith on May 5th.

Happy Anniversary to: Bill & Sharon Donlin and Leon & Mary Ann Green on May 3rd and Dick Smullen & Carol Petersen and Philip & Ashley Ruff on May 6th.

The Mission of Reformation Lutheran Church is to:

Invite our neighbors as Jesus invites us.

Engage in a community of graceful discipleship.

Equip our members to grow in faith and ministry.

Embody the love of Jesus in our world.

*The Rite of
Holy Baptism*

for

Havalah Eve Rakow

April 30, 2023

11:00 AM

Reformation Lutheran Church

Milford, DE

Presentation

The baptismal party gathers with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsors/Godparents present the candidate for Holy Baptism:

R: We present Havalah Eve Rakow for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents.

P: Jeremy and Loretta, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

R: We do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

R: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the Godparents:

P: Alex and Amanda, do you promise to nurture Havalah in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Havalah and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: **We do.**

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses the baptismal party:

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R: **I renounce them.**

The congregation stands and joins in confessing the Creed.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

The presiding minister leads the Thanksgiving at the font.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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

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

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

Baptism

Water is poured on the candidate's head three times with the following words:

P: Havalah Eve, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The congregation responds:

**C: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia!**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your sons and daughters new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Havalah with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

The sign of the cross is made with oil on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Havalah, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is presented to the newly baptized with these words:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The baptismal party follows the pastor as our newest sister in Christ is introduced to the congregation!

About Holy Baptism:

The Lutheran church believes and teaches that in Holy Baptism, God claims us as his own, seals us with the Holy Spirit, and begins a new life in us. We cannot earn these gifts, but receive them by trusting in the Lord Jesus, who commands us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

The water used in baptism symbolizes cleansing, and so points to the forgiveness of sin that is given to us in the sacrament. Whenever we stumble and fall short of God's will, we can remember that in our baptism, the Lord has promised to forgive, cleanse, and redeem us.

The water also symbolizes drowning and rebirth. Saint Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Baptism marks the beginning of our new life in Christ. All who are baptized are called to die daily to sin through repentance; in the mercy of Christ, we rise again to a life of faith, hope, and love. In baptism, we are claimed for a life of discipleship, to serve Christ and neighbor and bear witness to God's kingdom of grace, mercy, and truth.

Oil is used to make the sign of the cross on a newly-baptized person. Oil is an ancient symbol of God's blessing and of the Holy Spirit, who is the seal of God's presence in us by faith. The candle that is presented is lit from the Paschal Candle, which represents Christ's presence, showing that the gift of salvation comes from Jesus to us. Families are encouraged to mark "baptismal birthdays" every year by lighting this candle and remembering the gift of God's promise.

Godparents, or sponsors, are traditionally chosen for candidates for baptism. They have the special role of encouraging and supporting the disciple in their life of faith.

*You belong
to Christ, in whom
you have been baptized.*

Alleluia!