

May 7, 2023

The Fifth 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

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 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" No. 385

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-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 7:55-60**

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A: The Word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.**Second Reading****1 Peter 2:2-10**

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A: The Word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

John 14:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” **No. 886**

Nicene Creed *(Recited together)*

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.

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

Musical Offering

“If We Truly Believe”

Choir 8:30

“As we rise to go in different ways,
Although we all have separate lives to live,
We are joined as one in communion with our Lord
By His gift which He alone can give.
Take and eat, this is His body;
Take and drink, this is His blood,
Freely given for you and for me.”

Soren Evers 11:00

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: “When Peace like a River,” No. 785;
 “Here Is Bread,” No. 483; “I Received the Living God,” No. 477;
 “Bread of Life from Heaven,” No. 474

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Recessional Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

No. 654

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.

SERVING TODAY

May 7

Usher
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Healing Prayer
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operator
Fellowship Host

8:30

Chris & Melissa Miller
Chris Antonik
Trish Boyer
Dresden Miller
Diane Massey
Janice Piatkowski
Scott Rainville
Melissa Miller

11:00

Ed Huey
Joyce Nauman
Eric Valentine
Dresden Miller
Deb Bryant-Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

May 14

Usher
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Healing Prayer
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operator
Fellowship Host

8:30

Ron Semmont
Sandi Shea
Eric Valentine
Janice Weiner
Scott Rainville
Mary Lu Wilson

11:00

Todd Hannah
Dianna Smith
Gary Johnson
Jacob Truitt
Diane Massey
Janice Piatkowski

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study and Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
Tuesday	2:45 pm — KIDS Inc. Chapel
	6:30 pm — Growing Young Team
Wednesday	5:30 pm — Confirmation Class in the Annex
	6:30 pm — Mutual Ministry Committee
Thursday	10:00 am — Finance Committee
	6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study and Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us for Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study from 9:45 to 10:45 on Sunday mornings. 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.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Join your Reformation friends at a Shorebirds baseball game in Salisbury on Sunday, July 9 at 5:05 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 per person for our group (+ \$5 per vehicle for parking) and we'll sit in a section together. This is a great fellowship opportunity for all ages! Please contact Pastor Paige by June 25 to sign up: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net or 302-422-9117.

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!

CPR/First Aid Training: KIDS Inc. will be offering CPR/First Aid training on Saturday, June 3, from 9am to 3 pm. This program is at no cost to participants and is open to anyone interested. If you would like to brush up on your training or learn the basics, please send an email to office@reformation-lutheran.net to let us know.

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: Dominic Ortiz and Zoey Taylor today, Roseann Phillips and Sherry Titherington on the 9th, and Bill Hugues and Becca McKeznie on the 11th.

Happy Anniversary to: Greg & Ann Waddington on May 10th and Bill & Catherine Hugues on the 11th.