

May 21, 2023

# The Seventh 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-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

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## 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](http://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

“Christ Is the King”

No. 662

### 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 1:6-14

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. <sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

<sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation



### Gospel

**John 17:1-11**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

## **Sermon**

Pastor Eric W. Evers

**Hymn of the Day**      “Hail Thee, Festival Day!”      **No. 394**  
*Sing the “Ascension” verses as noted.*

## **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**      "Love the Lord"      Choir    8:30  
                                 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"    John Ferguson    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: “I Love to Tell the Story,” No. 661; “All Are Welcome,” No. 641; “When Peace Like a River,” No. 785; “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds,” No. 620

**Post-Communion Blessing**

**Post-Communion Prayer**



## Benediction

**Recessional Hymn**    “Crown Him with Many Crowns”    **No. 855**

## 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](http://www.rlcmilford.com/give).*

### SERVING TODAY

#### May 21

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

#### 8:30

Diane Massey  
Matt Pencek  
John Leach  
Connor Pencek  
  
Carol Whyte  
Kristin Schlegel  
Sandi Shea

#### 11:00

Steve & Edith Weipert  
Joyce Nauman  
Pam Curnock  
  
Joy Rowe  
Eric Valentine

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

#### May 28

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

#### 10:00

Ron Semmont  
Mary K. Konesey  
Eric Valentine  
  
Diane Massey  
Janice Weiner  
Sigrid Evers

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	4:00 pm — Youth Gathering
Tuesday	5:30 pm — Sanctuary Cleaning
	6:30 pm — Growing Young Team
Wednesday	5:30 pm — Sanctuary Cleaning
Thursday	6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday	10:00 am — Worship Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Summer Schedule Begins Next Sunday.** We begin our schedule of one service at 10:00 am and no Bible Study or Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, May 28th. It is also Pentecost Sunday. The congregation is invited to wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit.

**Let's "Deep Clean" the Sanctuary!** We are asking members to help with a Spring cleaning of the Narthex and Sanctuary on Tuesday - Wednesday, May 23-24 5:30 till?? If you can come to only one or both, that's wonderful. Bring your buckets, cleaning rags and a vacuum, along with some elbow grease! Cookies will be provided. Please call Roseann Phillips if you have any questions (410-259-6437).

**News from the Christian Service Committee:** For the month of May, we are collecting items for two animal shelters. Please remember to bring any donations you have no later than next Sunday. Contact Sherry Titherington, [pegasus67912@gmail.com](mailto:pegasus67912@gmail.com), with any questions.

**The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will meet on Thursday, June 1 at 12 noon at the home of Cheryl Altares. This will be the last meeting before our summer break. We will start the meeting with a potluck luncheon followed by Bible study and business. Officers for the coming year will be elected at this meeting. The sign-up sheet for the luncheon is on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. All women are welcome. Please join us!

**CPR/First Aid Training:** It's not too late to sign up for the training offered by KIDS Inc. on Saturday, June 3, from 9 am 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](mailto:office@reformation-lutheran.net) to let us know.

**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](http://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!

**SUMMER 'PICK-UP' CHOIR** This summer, we will continue with our Sunday morning 'pick-up' choir. On July 2nd, we'll meet in the choir room at 9AM to practice, then sing at the 10AM service. There's no weekly rehearsal, no obligation to sing every Sunday, no robes, no sitting in the choir loft (unless you want to!), no need to have a great voice or even to read music! You just need a willing heart to make a joyful noise!! Give it a try this summer!

**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. You can pay cash or make a check out to Reformation Lutheran Church for the tickets. (When you arrive at the stadium, you'll pay \$5 per vehicle for parking). This is a great fellowship opportunity for all ages! Please contact Pastor Paige by June 25 to sign up: [pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net) or 302-422-9117.

**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](http://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!

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

**Happy Birthday to:** Matt Pencek and Audrey Venett today, Barbara Seth on the 22nd, Drew Fox and Stephen Fox on the 23rd, Pat Nilsson on the 24th, Kirk Ranney on the 25th, and Kris Wilson on the 27th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Marv & Faith Navarro on the 22nd, Brad & Emily McDougall on the 25th, and Gary & Roseann Phillips (50 years) on the 26th.

**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.