May 21, 2023

The Seventh 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

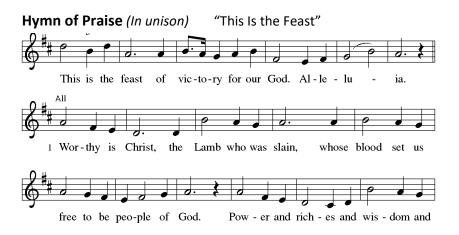
"Christ Is the King"

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.





Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: And also with you.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading Acts 1:6-14

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴All 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

¹²Beloved, 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. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴If 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. ^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

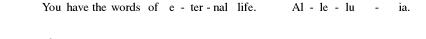
⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰And 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. ¹¹To 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, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶I 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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And 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.

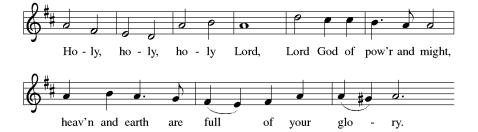
C: We lift them to the Lord.

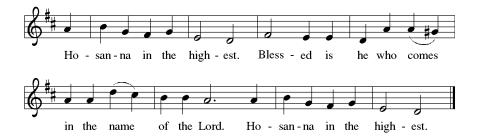
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Proper Preface

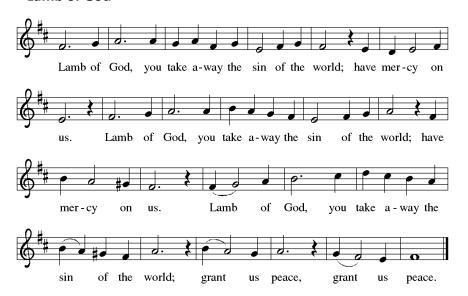
"Holy, Holy, Holy"





The Words of Institution

"Lamb of God"



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

May 21

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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

11.00

0.20

IVIAY ZI	0.30	11.00
Usher	Diane Massey	Steve & Edith Weipert
Lay Reader	Matt Pencek	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	John Leach	Pam Curnock
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	
Healing Prayer		Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel	
Fellowship Host	Sandi Shea	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

May 28	10:00
Usher	Ron Semmont
Lay Reader	Mary K. Konesey
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	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, 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 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. 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 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. 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, 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.