

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-12:00pm, Monday–Friday

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

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# **Third Sunday in Lent**

## **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.**

# Gathering

*\* indicates the congregation is invited to stand, as able*

## Announcements

## Prelude

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God... **Amen.**

**P:** Let us examine...

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** God of mercy and life,

**C:** **we confess that we have turned from you and have fallen under the deadly power of sin. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have broken our fellowship with you and with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, and set us free from sin and death, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, both now and forever, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of Almighty God... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**      “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”      **No. 645**

### **\*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**      “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”      **No. 588**  
(v. 1 & 2)

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows

are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.                   **C: And also with you.**  
**P:** Let us pray...                           **C: Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Word**

**First Reading**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you

shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 19** (read in unison)

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world

did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*Gospel**

**John 2:13-22**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“Restore in Us, O God”

**No. 328**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Hear us, O God,

**C:** Your mercy is great.

**\*The Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

## Meal

**\*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**

“Bring It All” (Choir)

8:30

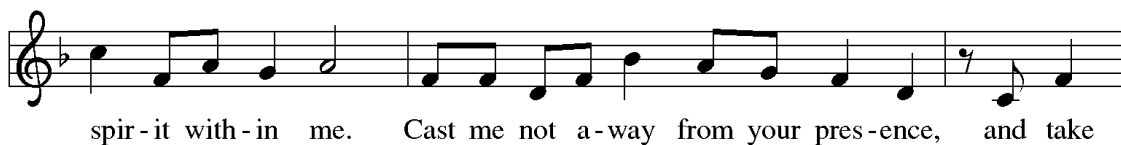
Special Music

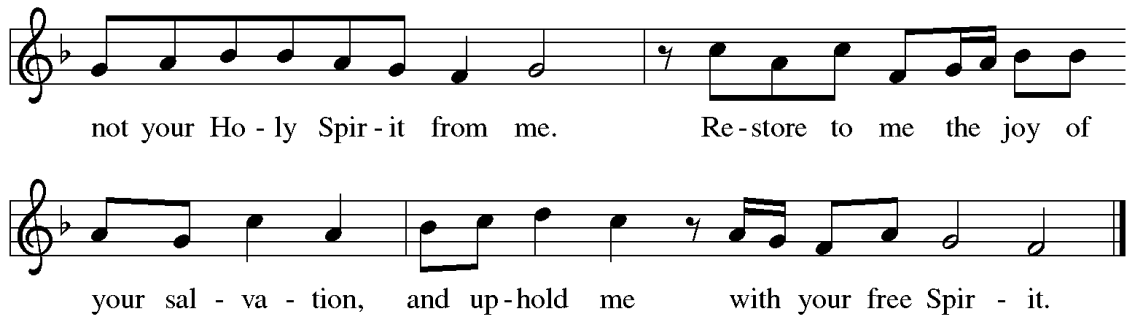
11:00

**Offertory**

“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”

**No. 186**





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.

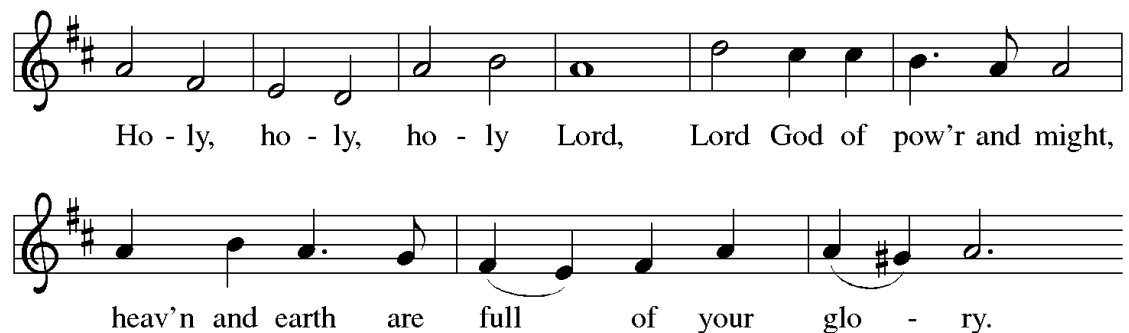
**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**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. 803, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross;” No. 856, “How Great Thou Art;” No. 466, “In the Singing;” No. 806, “O God, My Faithful God”

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

# Sending

## \*Benediction

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## \*Sending Hymn

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

**No. 802**

## \*Dismissal

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

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### SERVING TODAY

#### March 3

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

#### 8:30

Noah McDougall  
Chris Antonik  
Ken Newell  
Dresden Miller  
Diane Massey  
Janice Weiner  
Kristin Schlegel  
Mary Lu Wilson

#### 11:00

Soren Evers  
Rod Kopp  
Todd Hannah  
Lexi Caccamise  
Joy Rowe  
Lisa Caccamise

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

#### March 10

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

#### 8:30

Sue Fischer  
Jeff Lockard  
Eric Valentine  
Connor Pencek  
Dianna Smith  
Eric Valentine  
Scott Rainville  
Sandi Shea

#### 11:00

Ed Huey  
Sally Newell  
Trish Boyer  
Soren Evers  
Maynard Gregory  
Pam Curnock

### **THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION**

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	2:00 pm	RUTH Movie
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (Annex)
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer
	7:30 pm	WELCA Meeting
Thursday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Friday	12:00 pm	ROMEIO Lunch (Retired Men) at The Palace
Saturday	9:00 am & 12:30 pm	Rise Against Hunger (at Sussex Central High School)
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS!</b> 9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Movie & Fellowship Event:** The congregation is invited to a matinee showing of the movie RUTH, a Sight and Sound Production. It will be shown in the Fellowship Hall **TODAY**, at 2 pm. WELCA will be hosting the event, and refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

**High School Youth Group** meets **today** from 5-7 pm in the Annex. Dinner is part of Youth Group, along with conversation, faith learning, and fun!

**Rise Against Hunger on March 9:** On Saturday, March 9, you're invited to serve at a meal-packing event at Sussex Central High School with the organization, Rise Against Hunger. **Please sign up on the website for the shift that suits your schedule:** <https://tinyurl.com/RAH-Sussex-2024>.

**From the Christian Service Committee - a special request for baby blankets:** The NJHS is collecting diapers for the Delaware Adolescent

Program Inc. and they would like to add baby blankets to the collection. The CSC will be collecting them until the end of February.

The Christian Service Committee is also making large drawstring **backpacks for victims of domestic violence**. We need volunteers to help with sewing. We need the completed backpacks at the end of March. Assistance with this project would be greatly appreciated. Speak with Sherry Titherington, CSC Chair, for more details.

**Milford Food Pantry:** Help is needed to carry out God's command to feed His people. To learn more and register as a volunteer, attend the next meeting on March 13th at 2:00pm. at the New Century Club next to Avenue Methodist Church on Church Street. For more information, contact Ron Semmont at [ronaldsemmont@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldsemmont@comcast.net) or 302-424-1541. See you there!

**The New ROMEO ("Retired Old Men Eating Out") Club Invites you!** Come join us for lunch, every second Friday of the month, at noon at the Palace Restaurant in Milford. Our next lunch will be March 8. Space is limited. Just a couple of ground rules: it's Dutch treat, and no discussion of politics! Contact Maynard Gregory (302-381-4240) for more information.

**Electronic Giving:** Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at [www.rlcmilford.com/give](http://www.rlcmilford.com/give) you will be given the **option** to add an additional 1.9% of your donation to your contribution to help defray some of the electronic giving fee. Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries!

**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:** Gwen Hebert today, Christine Gannon and Shirley Gerhold on the 5th, Curt Hudson on the 6th, Dawn Guyer on the 9th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** James & Tammy Kehler on the 9th.