

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware 19963



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Phone: 302-422-9117

[www.rlcmilford.com](http://www.rlcmilford.com)

Fax: 302-422-9184

Email: [office@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:office@reformation-lutheran.net)

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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# Fourth 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** "Largo" Leon Green

## \*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** "O Christ, Our Hope" **No. 604**

## \*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**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22** (read in unison)

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble.

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

<sup>18</sup>they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup>Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

<sup>20</sup>he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

<sup>21</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

<sup>22</sup>And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

### Second Reading

### Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**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 3:14-21**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said,] “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Paige G. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

**No. 666**

**\*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

|                         |                        |       |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| <b>Musical Offering</b> | Special Music          | 8:30  |
|                         | “Bring It All” (Choir) | 11:00 |

*Do we try to be perfect when we come to meet the Lord? Do we try to hide our struggles and leave them at the door? The Lord knows all our weaknesses and offers up the call: Come unto me and bring it all.*

## Offertory “Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God” **No. 186**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
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.

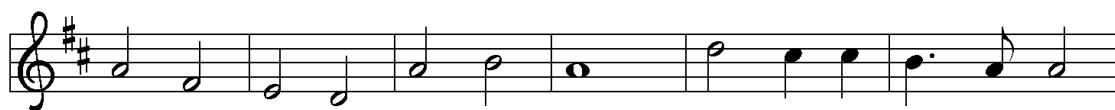
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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"

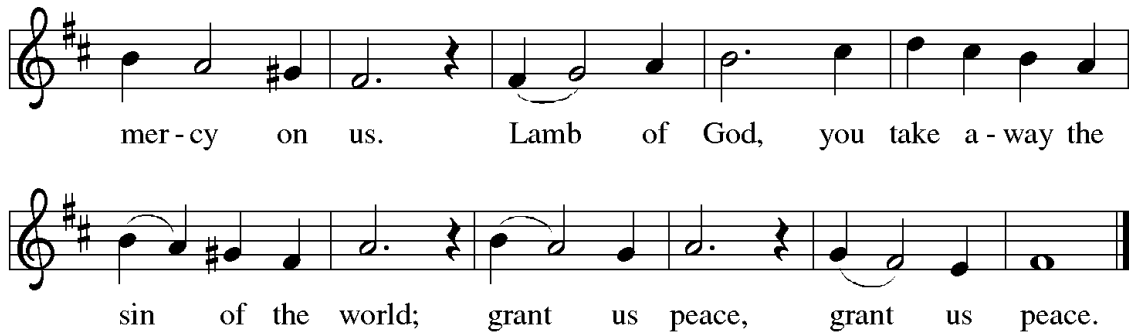


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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. 592, "Just As I Am, without One Plea;"  
No. 323, "God Loved the World;" No. 322, "Oh Love, How Deep  
(v. 1-4);" No. 720, "We Are Called"

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

**Sending**

**\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

**\*Sending Hymn**

"Lift High the Cross"

**No. 660**

**\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude**

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**About the Prelude:** A note from Leon: On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women Composers Sunday celebrated by the American Guild of Organists, I will play "Largo in A-flat Major" by Elizabeth Stirling. She was an English composer (1819-1895), educated at home but studied organ, piano and harmony, privately at the Royal Academy of Music. She began earning a living as a musician at age 16 after her father's business failed and became a respected composer, church organist and recitalist. She was known for her impressive pedal technique and is believed to be the first person in Britain to have performed J.S. Bach's "St. Anne" Prelude and Fugue at a public recital.

**SERVING TODAY**

|                      |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>March 10</b>      | <b>8:30</b>     | <b>11:00</b>    |
| Usher                | Sue Fischer     | Ed Huey         |
| Lay Reader           | Jeff Lockard    | Sally Newell    |
| Worship Assistant    | David Curnock   | Trish Boyer     |
| Acolyte              | Connor Pencek   | Soren Evers     |
| Healing Prayer       | Dianna Smith    | Maynard Gregory |
| Altar Guild          | Janice Weiner   | Pam Curnock     |
| Live Stream Operator | Scott Rainville |                 |
| Fellowship Host      | Sandi Shea      |                 |

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY**

|                      |                   |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>March 17</b>      | <b>8:30</b>       | <b>11:00</b>            |
| Usher                | Soren Evers       | Bill Vendetti           |
| Lay Reader           | Sandi Shea        | <i>Volunteer needed</i> |
| Worship Assistant    | David Curnock     | David Krantz            |
| Acolyte              | Dresden Miller    | Lexi Caccamise          |
| Healing Prayer       | Kristin Schlegel  | Joy Rowe                |
| Altar Guild          | Janice Piatkowski | <i>Volunteer needed</i> |
| Live Stream Operator | Soren Evers       |                         |
| Fellowship Host      | Karen Oldland     |                         |

**THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION**

|             |          |                          |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Today       | 8:30 am  | Worship Service          |
|             | 9:45 am  | Fellowship & Bible Study |
|             | 11:00 am | Worship Service          |
| Tuesday     | 2:30 pm  | Kids, Inc. Chapel        |
| Wednesday   | 6:15 pm  | Soup Supper              |
|             | 7:00 pm  | Evening Prayer           |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Confirmation             |
| Thursday    | 10:00 am | Finance Committee        |
| Saturday    | 10:00 am | Easter Egg Hunt Setup    |
| Next Sunday | 8:30 am  | Worship Service          |
|             | 9:45 am  | Fellowship & Bible Study |
|             | 11:00 am | Worship Service          |
|             | 12:30 pm | Easter Egg Hunt Setup    |
|             | 2:00 pm  | Easter Egg Hunt!         |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Annual Easter Egg Hunt** is coming on Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m.! (Raindate is March 23 at 2 p.m.) Children age 10 and younger are invited to come and hunt for eggs with candy and other prizes. Our Youth do a wonderful job hosting this Egg Hunt every year. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**Lutheran Campus Ministry Visit:** On Sunday, March 17, we will have a special visitor in worship. Mindy Holland, a Minister of Word and Service called as chaplain to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware, will offer a brief talk at the beginning of both services. Lutheran Campus Ministry is one of the many ministries of the wider church that you support through your gifts and offerings toward “Benevolence,” or mission support, for our Delaware-Maryland Synod. Mindy is looking forward to sharing about Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD with us, so please plan to be with us. She’ll be available during the Fellowship time and Adult Bible Study to talk one-on-one as well. If you, your children, or grandchildren attended UD and you have “Blue Hen” clothing, feel free to wear it on the 17th to show your support!

**New Ministry! Dinner Fellowship Groups** will be starting at Reformation in April. We have many members who live outside of Milford, and we want you to have a chance to get to know others who live near you. Dinner Fellowship Groups will be hosted in homes once a month. The focus will be the meal and fellowship, with a couple of “get to know you” questions offered by the group’s coordinator. The group can decide when and where to meet, and the coordinator will send out the details to everyone. Check out the table in the Narthex to see the groups and sign up, and you can offer to host or serve as a coordinator as well. Friends from outside Reformation are welcome to come and get to know the warmth and hospitality of a church community. Please speak with Pastor Paige or Pastor Eric with any questions.

**From the Christian Service Committee:** The CSC is collecting for victims of domestic violence during the month of March. They can use the following items: gas or Walmart gift cards, twin size sheets and blankets, bed pillows, baby wipes, bath towels, wash cloths, pajamas, duffle bags, and suitcases. Any financial donations can be made online at <https://peoplesplace2.com/ways-to-give/>

Save the date for **Vacation Bible School** for families to attend together: June 17-20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. each night. We'll be going to "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid" for our VBS theme this year! Please join us with your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors! To volunteer at VBS (middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults), please contact Pastor Paige.

There will be a meeting of **Senior Quilters** on March 23 at 10 a.m. in the Annex. Contact: Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick, (302) 466-7245.

**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!

**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:** Jamey Kehler, Janet Lonergan, June Steenland, and Shannon Wilson today; Barbara Barker and David Davis on the 13th; and Nancy Burkett on the 14th.