

April 7, 2024

Second 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-2:00pm, Monday–Friday

Susan Bozak

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

The Second Sunday of Easter

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.

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.

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 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!" No. 393

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 4:32-35**

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the

apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133 (read in unison)

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

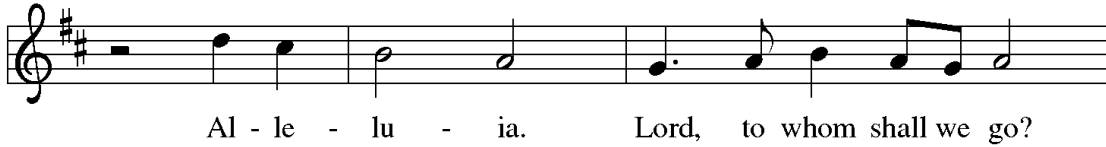
My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus

Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because

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.

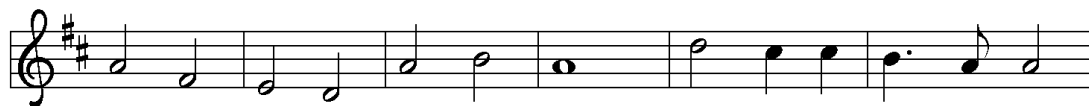
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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. 389, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing;" No. 660, "Lift High the Cross;" No. 385, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" No. 364, "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** "The Day of Resurrection!" **No. 361**

***Dismissal**

Postlude

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THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Saturday	10:30 am	Greg Waddington Memorial Service
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	New Members' Class & Fellowship
	11:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members' Class Starting April 14: Are you interested in learning more about Reformation? On April 14 through April 28, we will have a New Members Class during the Sunday morning Bible study hour (9:45am). Please speak with Pastor Eric or Pastor Paige if you have any questions, and contact the church office to let us know if you plan to attend (302-422-9117).

New Ministry! Dinner Fellowship Groups will be starting at Reformation in April. These will be a great way to get to know each other and strengthen friendships in our congregation! 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. Please speak with Pastor Paige or Pastor Eric with any questions.

Home Bible Study Group Starting: Join with us as we read and study together Kate Bowler's book, *No Cure For Being Human*. For many of us during the pandemic, life was reduced to small spaces. We can learn new ways to build a beautiful life within new social constructs, closing that "distance" we intentionally created. We can learn how to find hope and courage and beauty together, pursuing the mission of representing Christ to the community. We set aside the promises of self-help gurus and Instagram influencers and make peace with our beautiful, terrible finitude.

We will meet at the home of Joy Rowe at 603 Marvel Road in Milford. Our study will begin April 9 we will meet at 7pm for approx 7 weeks, limited to 8 people. Please contact Pastor Dianna Smith at (201) 982-2295 or diannasmith55@yahoo.com with questions or to sign up.

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.

Newspaper Donations Requested: Kids Inc., our day care ministry, will be making floral decorations for their room with newspapers. If you have any newspapers, we would appreciate the donation. There is a collection bin in the narthex. Thank you!

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!

Electronic Giving: Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at 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!

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. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Happy Birthday to: Don Hannah & Sheree Talbott on April 8, Joann Czenze-Cotton & Oliver Hansen on April 11, Kathy Hubbard on April 12 and Kjeri Boyle on April 13. **Happy Anniversary to:** James & Sheree Talbott on April 8, Jill & Kelly Racz and Michael & Tracey Lewis on April 10, Matt & Shannon Pencek on April 12

SERVING TODAY

April 7	8:30	11:00
Usher	Ron Semmont	Karen Oldland
Lay Reader	Sandi Shea	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	David Curnock	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Dianna Smith
Altar Guild	Pam Curnock	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville	
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

April 14	8:30	11:00
Usher	Jeff Lockard	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Shannon Pencek	Lisa Caccamise
Worship Assistant	Kristin Schlegel	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	
Healing Prayer	Dianna Smith	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville & Emerick Miller	
Fellowship Host	Sandi Shea	