

# THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Third Sunday of Advent

**SUNDAY, December 14, 2025 10:00AM**

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REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

**BOLD PRINT** = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE  
MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

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*The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the  
liturgy.*

## **WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Visitors: We welcome you to Reformation Lutheran Church and are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship God. We hope you find it meaningful for your faith life and that you will return.

Please complete a Visitor Card in the small pew rack and put it in the offering plate so we can thank you for coming. You may hand the card to the pastor or an usher. Also, please sign our guest register which is near the entrance.

Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our weekly fellowship time with food and beverage.

*Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.*

## **Prelude**

*(We Stand)*

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, (+) one God,  
who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Creator God,

**You created the earth, whole and round;**

**You created us to be whole people.**

**But we have become fragmented, cracked and broken.**

**We have been broken by false promises,**

**lost relationships, shattered trust.**

**We have become cracked with the experience**

**of systemic sin: prejudice, oppression and fear.**

**We have become fragmented,**

**building up walls instead of lending hands.**

**Forgive us when we have done the breaking,**

**heal us where we have been hurt.**

**Let Your light shine through our cracks and scars**

**so that we might bring light to the world,**

**showing that in You we are made whole.**

**In You we find healing.**

**In You we find renewed life.**

**Help us to forgive, to love, to mend.**

**Amen.**

God is the Potter; we are the Clay.

When we are cracked and broken,

God helps to bring us back together.

Sometimes we don't feel the same afterwards,

but God uses every piece

and offers us the newness of life to begin again.

**Amen.**

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

II Corinthians 13: 13

**And also with you.**

## LITANY OF WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?  
**To act justly; to love mercy;  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,  
and anyone who welcomes me  
welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

**The Spirit says, "Come."**

**Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come,"  
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

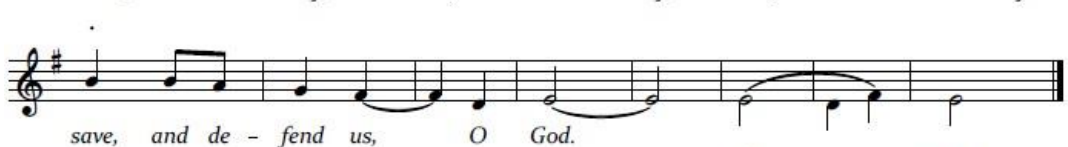
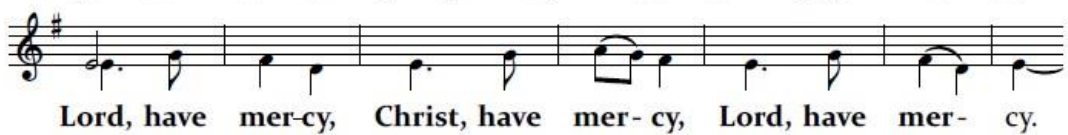
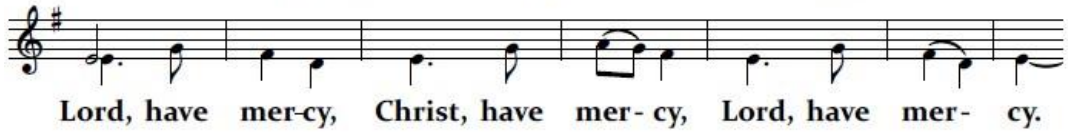
In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,  
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,  
to strengthen and sustain us,  
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

**Let us worship God now**

**With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,  
With works that bring forth God's powerful justice,  
And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence,  
Now and always,  
Amen!**

# Kyrie

## Kyrie



A - - men.

CANDLELIGHTING PRAYER

Dear God,  
In the height of our Advent walk,  
grant us the courage to experience joy.  
Joy in the face of apathy,  
Joy in the face of sorrow,  
Joy in the face of uncertainty. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN / GLORIA

Victoria Blackmore

Light the Advent Candle Three

French Carol

tune: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

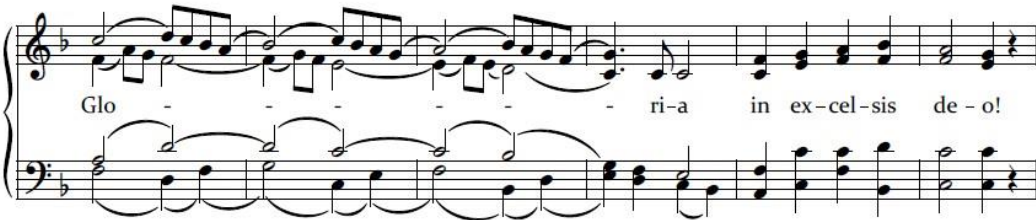
1. Light the Ad-vent can - dle THREE. Think of heav'n - ly har - mo - ny:  
2. Can - dle, can - dle burn - ing bright, Shin - ing in cold win - ter's night;



An - gels sing - ing "Peace on Earth" At the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth!  
Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, Fill our hearts with Christ - mas light!



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis de - o!



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis de - o!



## The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children's Message**

Pastor Steven

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.*

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10**

**Read responsively**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth,**  
**the sea, and all that is in them;**  
**who keeps faith forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**  
**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
**the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.



**<sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

A reading from James.

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### Holy Ground

The musical notation for 'Holy Ground' is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: 'We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground. And I know that there are an-gels all a-round. Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho-ly ground.' The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests, with a double bar line at the end of the second staff.

We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground. And I know that there are an-gels all a-round.

Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho-ly ground.

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

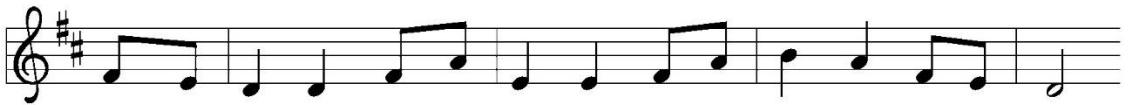
Pastor Steven

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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## **Nicene Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

*The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.*

## Prayers of the Church and Response

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system of music has the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, an-swer me." The second system of music has the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me." The chords are indicated above the treble staff: Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, G/B, C, Am, B in the first system; and Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, Em/G, Am7, B, Em in the second system.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you., When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services). God of grace,

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

Command your angels concerning all who are sick, especially those we remember silently in our hearts and with voice upon our lips (*pause*)... Jill Mann; David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Sue ZurSchmeide (*wife of Lynn Black*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; Joe Black (*father of Lynn Black*); Bill Black (*brother of Lynn Black*); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Candy Pennington, (*friend of Peg Thompson*), Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*). God of grace,

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

*The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.*

## PEACE

ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you!**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

### Offertory Anthem

*"I Will Enter God's Gates"*

Choir

### Doxology

## All Praise, Eternal Christ, to Thee

--Charles Coffin, 1736

First line of musical notation for the doxology. It consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: All praise, e - ter - nal Christ, to Thee, Whose com - ing sets Thy

Second line of musical notation for the doxology. It continues the melody and harmony from the first line. The lyrics are: peo - ple free; Once more up - on Thy peo - ple shine

Third line of musical notation for the doxology. It concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are: And fill the world with love di - vine! A - men.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

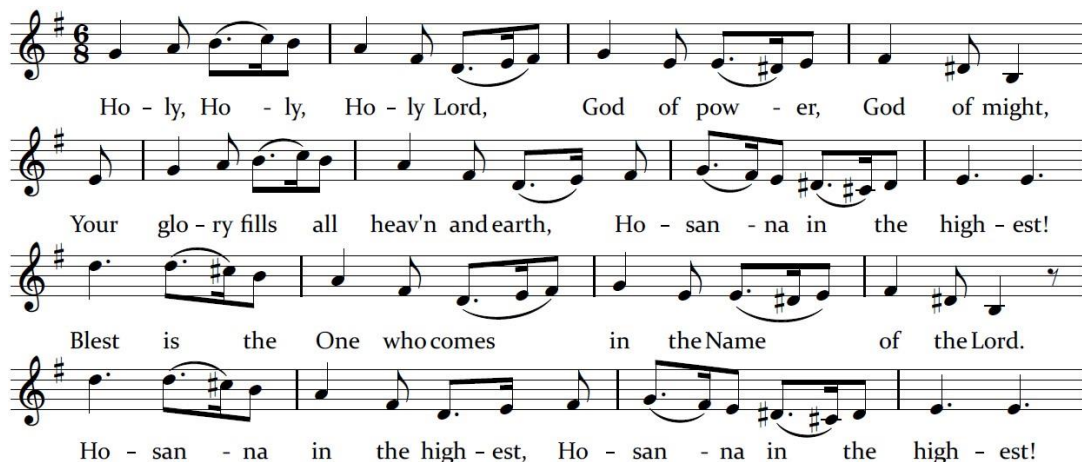
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,  
Your glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Blest is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the beginning, O God, there was only you.  
We lived with you, walked with you, and your presence  
was like the light of a thousand suns blazing.  
Yet we turned away from that light and walked into the dark.  
We hid from the glory of your fire.  
Our eyes were blinded by your brightness.  
Even so, you did not turn from us.  
You gave us the promise of a new light,  
the hope of our reconciliation.  
You promised us your Son.  
**We await the fulfillment of your promise.**  
**We look into the dark, with eyes unused to your radiance, and see an ember burning.**  
**Renew our eyes. Send us your light, O God.**

In the beginning, O God, there was only you.  
And you moved to save us from our blindness,  
to lead us from our dark wanderings,  
and to bring us back into the light of day.  
Little by little you have revealed your light.  
Little by little you have accustomed us to the coming fire.  
Through Sarah and Abraham, through Jacob and Isaac,  
through Moses and David, through Mary and Joseph,  
you have slowly uncovered the ember of our hope still burning.  
You have revealed to us Christ Jesus.  
**We have walked with Sarah.**  
**We have walked with Abraham and all your prophets.**  
**We have tried to open our eyes to the light.**  
**Help us to see again.**  
**Help us to endure the light of your coming.**  
**Send us your light, our hope and our salvation.**  
**Send us your Son. Send us Jesus.**

In the beginning, O God, there was only you:  
Creator, Word and Breath.  
And from that beginning we see our birth.  
From that beginning we see our salvation.  
From that beginning we see our source of life.  
**Come loving Parent. Come Lord Jesus.**  
**Come Holy Spirit. Come to us now.**



For the promise of our salvation, the ember of life still burning, is Christ Jesus who comes as one of us,  
who comes to save us, who comes to lead us into the light.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took the bread, and gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink,  
saying, "This cup is the new covenant which is in my blood.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

For as long as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

**Through God and with God and in God  
is all glory and honor, all life and light,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray the prayer Jesus has taught us,

**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.**

# LAMB OF GOD

# Lamb of God

(tune: It Came upon the Midnight Clear)

O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of all the world.

Have mer-cy on us, Lamb of God, and grant to us your peace.

O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of all the world.

Have mer-cy on us, Lamb of God, and grant to us your peace.

# THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

*ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.*

*The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.*

[illegible]

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## COMMUNION HYMN

### Jesus, Lamb of God



*The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.*

### THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Let us pray.*

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.. **Amen.**

### COMMISSION and BENEDICTION

In the Name of the Divine Trinity, let us pray:

Loving God, you have called us into being through love.

You have joined us to one another in love.

How good and pleasant it is when your people dwell together in unity!

Shine your light upon all your children –

we of every identity, every gender, every race, every skin –  
that we can see the glory of eternal life.

Grant to each individual their strength

to carry your blessing from this place to the next.

May each one be at home in any land, for all the earth is yours.  
 May each one's hope be set on your rule of justice and peace.  
 May the lamp of your Word guide each one on the unsure paths of life.  
**Amen.**

The blessing of Almighty God be with you  
 and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW#267 (Red book)

### Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## SENDING WORDS and DISMISSAL

As the apostle Paul says in Philippians,

“The Lord is near” (4:5).

We are witnesses of the dawning of that  
great light come into the world—

**Immanuel, God with us.**

May we depart from this gathering  
with our faces set on the Sun,  
so that our lives may serve as a reflection of God’s light  
in the midst of our darkness,  
that our very lives may announce the advent of the Messiah.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### Announcements

**Chrisitan Sympathy:** To the Javis family at the death of Alicia Javis, on Thursday, December 4. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 12:00 PM at Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home 2930 Colonial Drive Columbia, SC 29203.

*Alicia was a true matriarch and caregiver of Reformation. She lovingly orchestrated meals and fellowship, helped lead children’s activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat Hot Dog Stand, and championed outreach ministries that served the homeless, senior adults through games and bingo, and underserved families in two Columbia housing communities through ongoing feeding efforts. For many years, she also coordinated a community Thanksgiving outreach, providing dinners to 75 families each year up to 2025. In addition, she led school supply collections and the Souper Bowl canned food drive, always ensuring that others were cared for with dignity, excellence, and love. She will be missed.*

### **Poinsettias at Reformation Lutheran Church**

Each year during Advent, Reformation Lutheran Church is transformed by the beauty of poinsettias lovingly placed by members and friends. These seasonal flowers are a long-standing Christian tradition representing **Christ’s birth, new life, and the light that shines in darkness.**

Poinsettias may be given **in honor, in memory, or in celebration** of loved ones. The flowers will adorn our sanctuary throughout the Christmas season, lifting our worship and adding to the joy of this sacred time. **Pick up a form in the narthex - \$14/plant.**

## **New Blue Envelopes Available in the Pews**

Thank you to all who faithfully use the blue pew envelopes to support the mission and ministry of Reformation Lutheran Church. Your gifts sustain the wide variety of programs, outreach efforts, and worship life of our congregation. The pew racks have been replenished, making it easier to make a recorded contribution. If you are behind on your 2025 pledge or haven't started giving, we encourage you to do what you can to catch up. We are currently behind in our anticipated giving and appreciate any effort to help close the gap. A special thank you to those who continue to give faithfully and regularly — your generosity helps us serve God and neighbor through Reformation Church.

## **Would You Be Willing to Make Prayer Shawls?**

The Kindness Team is excited to share that we will be replacing coffee mugs in our new member welcome bags with handmade *prayer shawls*—a more personal and meaningful gift for each household. If you knit or crochet, we would love for you to join us in this ministry. We typically receive new members quarterly (on 5th Sundays), with an average of 5 or more households joining each time. There is no specific pattern or color required, though **red** is a meaningful color for Reformation. A typical shawl measures approximately **57–58 inches long** and **24–36 inches wide**, but the design is left to the creative heart of the maker. If you're willing to contribute, please contact **Lynn Black** or **Dot Jeffcoat** to get involved.

## **Coffee Hour**

If you can help out with coffee hour, check with **Pastor Steven**. You can help by providing foods and/or by helping set up and clean up. This is an important part of our hospitality and kindness ministry. Kindness is contagious.

**Announcements to share** - To include information from your committee or task group, submit brief messages (2-4 sentences) to the church office by **Monday at Noon** – [officeofreform@gmail.com](mailto:officeofreform@gmail.com).

## REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING church



that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color.

The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.

### OPPORTUNITIES of WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

In Person Sunday Worship Livestream - 10:00 am-11:00 am [www.reformationcae.org](http://www.reformationcae.org)

Coffee Hour is held after the worship service in the Reformation Fellowship Hall.

### *Welcome to Reformation Lutheran Church*

Whether you are visiting today or a longtime member, we are grateful to gather with you in worship. Our community is rooted in love, service, and the grace of Christ. If you're visiting, please fill out a visitor card located in the back of the pew and place it in the offering receptacle. We would love to keep in touch with you.

### **Stay Connected!**

Follow us online:

 Facebook: [ReformationLutheranColumbiaSC](https://www.facebook.com/ReformationLutheranColumbiaSC)

 Instagram: [@reformationlutherancola](https://www.instagram.com/@reformationlutherancola)

 YouTube: [@Reformation1118](https://www.youtube.com/@Reformation1118)

### **Stay Informed!**

**Visit [reformationcae.org](http://reformationcae.org) and click the red box at the bottom of the page to sign up.**

*Google Group: Reformation Church Group News, Announcements*

*Constant Contact: Sympathy Notices, Weekly Announcements, Upcoming Events*

**Thank you for being connected and informed!**