

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Epiphany Sunday

SUNDAY, January 11, 2026 10:00AM

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

*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.

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing.
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent.

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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!**

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Gloria -



in excelsis Deo; glo -



- ri - a in excelsis Deo.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, 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 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Read responsively

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ² **May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.**
- ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live^[a] while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
- ¹² **For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy
and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King!
Let ev' - ry heart pre - pare Him room, And heav'n and na - ture sing,
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove
The glo-ries of His right-eous-ness, And won-ders of His love,
and won-ders of His love, and won-ders, won-ders of His love!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

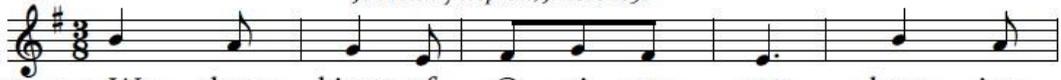
Pastor Steven

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. 1820-1891



All Sing: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
Melchior: 2. Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
Caspar: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
Balthazar: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
All Sing: 5. Glor - ious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; King for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; Heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia; al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain (All sing):



Oh star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The assembly stands for the Affirmation of Faith.

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 clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. 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 has the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me." Above the notes, there are chord symbols: 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.

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day.

Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths.

Hear us, O God.

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*). Hear us, O God.

O Lord, hear my prayer...

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE

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

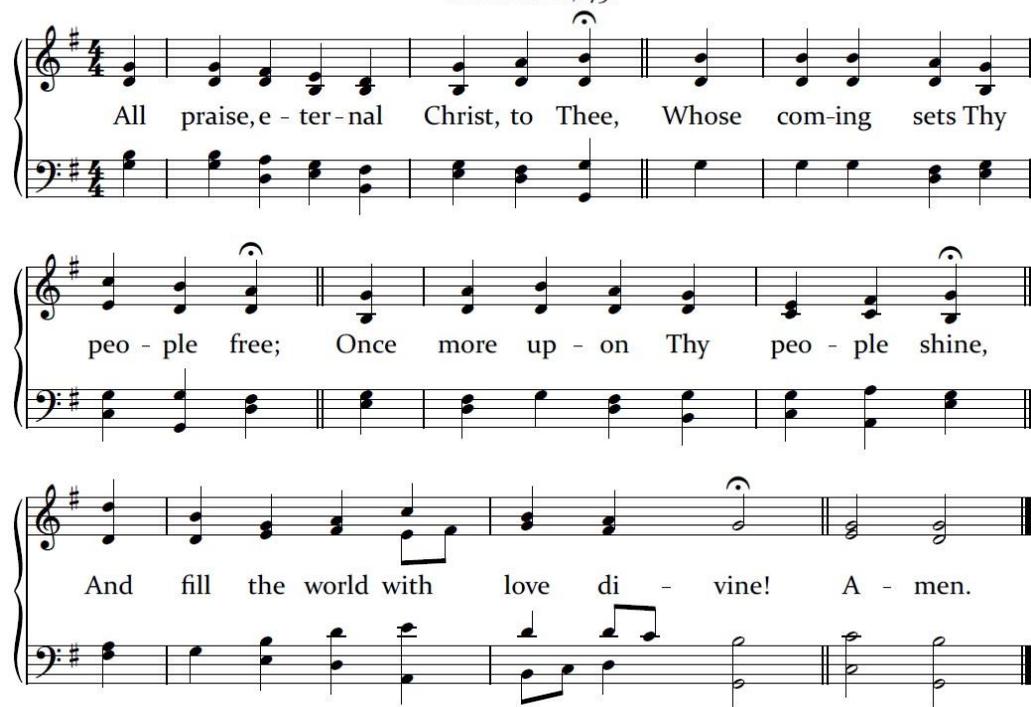
"I Wonder as I Wander"

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
The promise of the ages it did then recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could've had it, 'cause he was the King.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

Doxology

All Praise, Eternal Christ, to Thee

Charles Coffin, 1736



All praise, e - ter - nal Christ, to Thee, Whose com - ing sets Thy
peo - ple free; Once more up - on Thy peo - ple shine,
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 al - so 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "GREAT THANKSGIVING". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

PROPER PREFACE AND SANCTUS (tune: "What Child Is This?")

"It is indeed right . . .

. . . 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!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "PROPER PREFACE AND SANCTUS (tune: 'What Child Is This?')". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: "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!" The melody is more complex than the first hymn, featuring many eighth and sixteenth notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

[Communion Acclamation is sung.]



Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember
your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

[Communion Amen is sung.]



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. The melody consists of four measures. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a dotted half note B4. The second measure has a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a dotted half note F#4. The third measure has a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a dotted half note C#4. The fourth measure has a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a dotted half note G3. The lyrics "A - men, A - men, A - men." are written below the staff, with hyphens under the notes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God

(tune: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*)



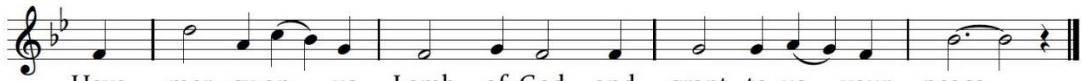
O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of all the world.



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.

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, Lamb of God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system includes the lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;' and the second system includes 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.' The music is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

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 BENECTION

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

Irish traditional **I Cannot Tell** William Y Fullerton, 1857-1932

1. I can-not tell why He, whom an - gels wor - ship, Should set His love
 2. I can-not tell how si - lent - ly He suf - fered, As with His peace
 3. I can-not tell how He will win the na - tions, How He will claim
 4. I can-not tell how all the lands shall wor - ship When at His bid -

up - on the sons of men, Or why, as Shep - herd, He should seek the
 He graced this place of tears, Or how His heart up - on the Cross was
 His earth - ly her - i - tage, Or sat - is - fy the needs and as - pir -
 ding ev - ery storm is stilled, Or who can say how great the ju - bi -

wan - der - ers To bring them back, they know now how or when.
 bro - ken, The crown of pain to three and thir - ty years.
 a - tions Of east and west, of sin - ner and of sage.
 la - tion When all the hearts of men with love are filled.

But this I know, that He was born of Mar - y, When Beth - l'hem's
 But this I know, He heals the bro - ken - heart - ed, And stays our
 But this I know, all flesh shall see His glo - ry, And He shall
 But this I know, the skies shall thrill with rap - ture, And count - less

man - ger was His on - ly home, And that He lived at Naz - a - reth and
 sin and calms our lurk - ing fear, And lifts the bur - den from the heav - y
 reap the har - vest He has sown; And some glad day His sun will shine in
 voic - es then will join to sing; And earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth will

la - bored, And so the Sav - ior, Sav - ior of the world, is come.
 la - den, For yet the Sav - ior, Sav - ior of the world, is here.
 splen - dor, When He the Sav - ior, Sav - ior of the world, is known.
 an - swer: "At last the Sav - ior, Sav - ior of the world, is King!"

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

Souper Bowl of Caring

We will begin collecting non-perishable goods after Christmas, leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. We will be competing again this year between Clemson, USC, and others. The goods will go towards Harvest Hope, our blessing box, and CHAI participants.

Coffee Hour

If you can help out with coffee hour, check with **Pastor Steven**. You can help by providing foods and/or by helping her 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.

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

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 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!