THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost SUNDAY, July 20, 2025 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

(We Stand)

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

Prelude

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 sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Spirit knows. When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also. When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God, the Spirit goes before us and with us and God welcomes us with arms open.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sins together, saying,

God of amazing love and unexpected grace, open our eyes that we may see You especially in those times when we feel abandoned by You; forgive us that we so easily allow circumstance to blind us to Your Presence.

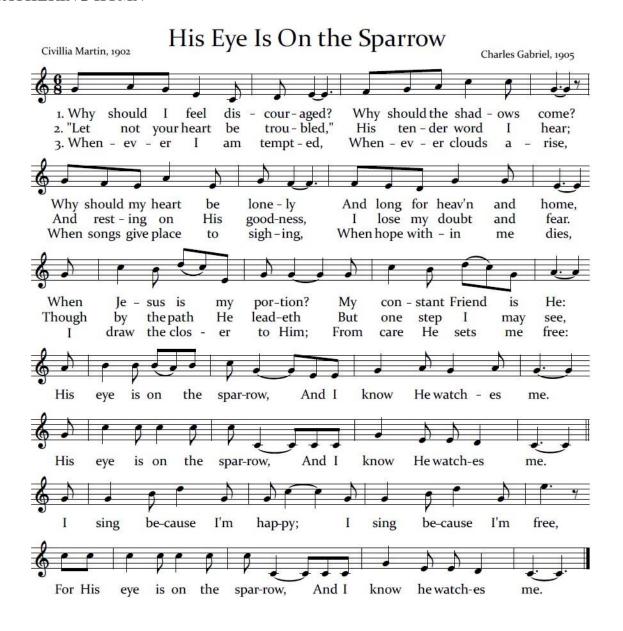
Touch our lives that we may know You especially in those times when we feel unable to cope; forgive us that we too frequently mistrust Your power.

Fill our hearts that we may become like You especially when Your message needs to be heard; Forgive us that we forget who we are: children of God with Your Spirit in us.

Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-18)

Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN



APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

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

II Corinthians 13: 13

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," Revelation 22: 17 for all are welcome here.

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!

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray...

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

A reading from Genesis.

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a} Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- ² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;
- ³ who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
- ⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
- ⁵ who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

A reading from Colossians.

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

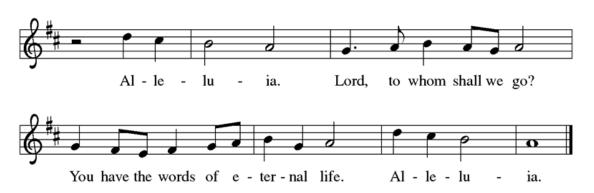
²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in

you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

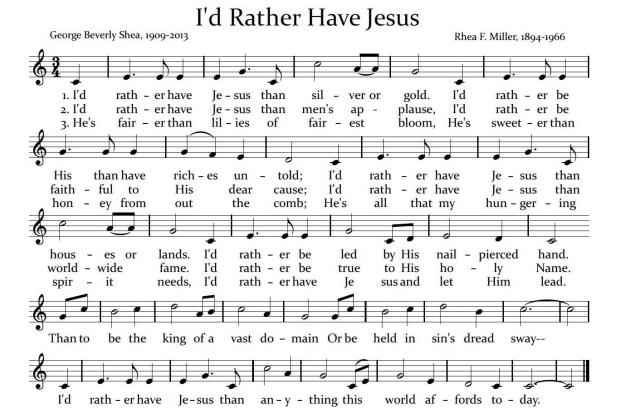
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Steven

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

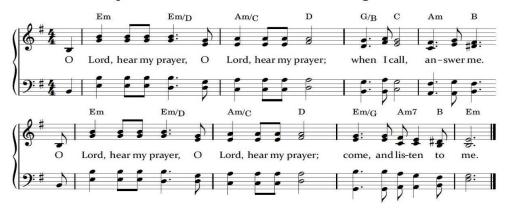


Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church and Response



In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. 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) *Maria Gallego* (mother of Pastor Steven); *Tiffanie Reeves; Marcus Mann* (father of Marc Mann); *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...

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

"Time Is Filled with Swift Transition" ("Hold to God's Unchanging Hand")

Choir

by Jennie Wilson and Franklin Lycurgus Eiland

1. Time is filled with swift transition. Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

[Refrain] Why don't you hold to His hand, (to) God's unchanging hand? Why don't you hold to His hand, (to) God's unchanging hand? Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

- 2. Trust in Him who will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring. If by earthly friends forsaken, Still more closely to Him cling. [Refrain]
- 3. Covet not this world's vain riches That so rapidly decay. Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures. They will never pass away. [Refrain]
- 4. When your journey is completed, If to God you have been true, Fair and bright, the home in glory Your enraptured soul will view. [Refrain]

Doxology



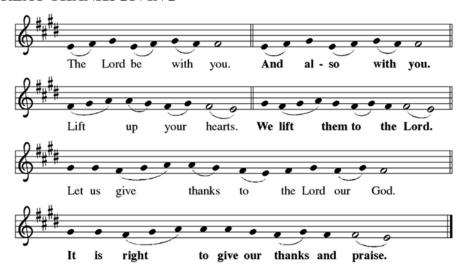
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

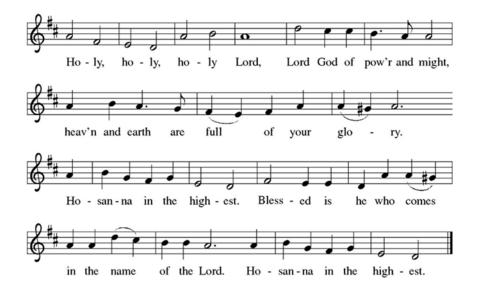
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE and SANCTUS

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.

Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.

Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham, we go out in faith, trusting your promise.

With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.

With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.

With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.

With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One.

With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, we give thanks for the blessings of family.

With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.

With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us. You are our heart's desire.

You are our priceless treasure. You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine. Come among us, O passionate Fire.

Come within us, O Spirit of unity. Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Bless our table and the feast we share. Bless us with gladness of heart. Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table, make us your body. Form us to be people of justice and peace. Fill us with gratitude and generosity that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.

Praise to you, O Beloved One.

Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.

Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.

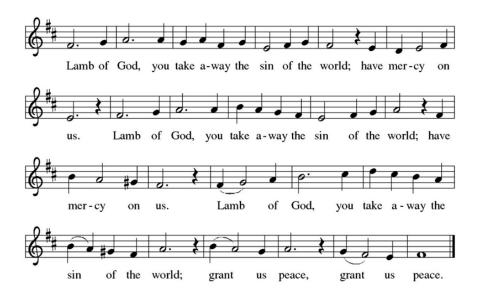
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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



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.

COMMUNION SONG





riv - er

foun-tain

o - cean

in

in

in

my

my

my

soul.

soul.

soul.

Text: traditional

I've got

I've got

I've got

Music: PEACE LIKE A RIVER, African American spiritual

peace

joy

love

like

like

like

a

a

an

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God, Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name; Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

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

Go now, and live before God in openness and integrity.

Set your minds on the ways of God,

not clinging to your own life,

but taking up your cross and following Jesus.

And may God give you a share in the eternal covenant;

May Christ Jesus be proud of you when he comes in glory;

And may the Holy Spirit make you grow strong in faith and lead you in the ways of righteousness.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Oh, How I Love Jesus



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Wednesday Fellowship Night

Future events planned are:

- August 6 Tentative: bowling night
- September 3 Tentative: wine and craft night

Saturday, August 9 – Save the Date and save your appetite!!

There will be a BBQ Fundraiser held at Reformation on Saturday, August 9 from 2pm-8pm to support Gamecock Lutheran. This is a fundraiser sponsored in part by the Reformation Church Council. Make sure you join us!

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 Alicia Javis. 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 gamesto 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

Instagram: <u>@reformationlutherancola</u>

YouTube: @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!