

Lutheran Church of the REFORMATION

The birds of the air make nests in its shade

MARK 4:32



Service of Holy Communion June 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m. You can use this booklet for worship **in the sanctuary and at home.** Most of the liturgy and hymns are from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), All Creation Sings (ACS), and other resources published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You can join worship online and find other devotional resources at www.ReformationDC.org/worship.

We love and protect one another as we worship God. Therefore, when you are inside the church building you must wear a mask and remain physically distant from people in another household. Also, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer and follow the instructions of the greeters/ushers. Everyone can sing and join in speaking the **bold** portions of the liturgy. *During or after the postlude, please go outside and continue fellowship with others there.*

Children are always welcome in worship, but sometimes caregivers need other options. The Blue Room, at the rear left of the sanctuary, is equipped with sound. Some caregivers and restless children follow the service there. Parents are welcome to feed or breastfeed their infants anywhere they are comfortable, including the sanctuary. A professionally staffed nursery is in the lower level of the St. John's Building. Please ask an usher/greeter for assistance.

Restrooms, with changing tables, are on the lower level. There is also an all-gender/handicapped accessible restroom on the sanctuary level, on the right front of the sanctuary near the elevator.

If you or a neighbor need **pastoral care**, please call the church office at 202-543-4200 or one of the pastors via email: Pastor Mike at wilker@ReformationDC.org or Pastor Ben at hogue@ReformationDC.org. Voicemail will have instructions about how to contact them in case of emergency. If you are interested in **baptism and membership** at Reformation, please contact Pastor Ben and he can discuss details and discern next steps with you!

Reformation honors the **Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples** upon whose land we live and worship. We are committed to solidarity with the American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association. Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have been part of ReconcilingWorks, a national **Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry**.

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GATHERING

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

Prelude Les Bergers Messiaen

Welcome

As we gather for worship in the church building and online in our homes or gardens, today's liturgy helps us pause to lament what we have lost during the pandemic and give thanks for God's sustaining presence. Then we hear Bible stories about God planting seeds and trees that provide shelter for many birds. The seed of God's good news will be spread in ever widening circles this summer. Then like seeds that were sown and harvested, God forms us into one bread with Jesus in Holy Communion. Finally, we conclude today's worship blessing seven graduates. The Spirit is moving! She is moving, indeed!

Gathering In-Person and Online

This gathering rite is adapted from a resource from the ELCA worship director, Deacon John Weit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who upholds us through adversity, who consoles us in our sorrows, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 54:10

We lament before you, O God, Comforter in our distress, the losses that our congregation and this community has suffered. We have missed our weekly in-person worship, our sharing of bread and cup, our communal song, our greetings of peace; the full observances of Christmas and Easter;

baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals;

in-person gatherings for education;

fellowship hours;

the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted each Sunday, and we mourn members, friends, and family who have died of COVID-19. O God, we lament our losses, for they are many.

Restore us, gracious God.

Restore us, gracious God.

We lament before you, O God, Sustainer of the universe, the tragedies that our world has experienced.

We lament the millions sickened; the countless dead; thousands unemployed; medical systems depleted; economic security threatened; government assistance inadequate; political discord escalated; despondency rampant; racial injustice intensified; communal engagements canceled.

O God, we lament the world's tragedies, for they are incalculable. Heal us, compassionate God.

Heal us, compassionate God.



Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping Verse 1, soloist. Verse 2, all sing.

The lyrics by Adam Tice (b. 1979) are set to an early American hymn "I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger." This is a communal song which expresses deep longing and lament. Redemption is evident with the Spirit singing and Christ sharing our cries so that we may join God's song.



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: WAYFARING STRANGER, North American traditional Text © 2015 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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Yet today, O God of the everlasting arms,

we rejoice at this gathering of our congregation in-person and online:

we praise you for Sunday worship in word and sacrament;

for the personal presence of our pastors and ministers;

for infants, children, youth, adults, and the elders together;

for communal song and live music;

for coffee hours;

for Bible study;

for service with one another for the wider community;

for the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted on Sundays and weekdays . . .

O God, we rejoice at this gathering for baptismal life together.

Empower our church, faithful God.

Empower our church, faithful God.

And we pray, O God of safe harbor, for the emergence of a wholesome world:

with health restored;

mourners consoled:

vaccines available:

hospitals restocked;

employment reinstated;

poverty averted;

sustenance shared;

science respected;

travel resumed;

fear replaced with confidence;

sorrow turned to joy.

O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.

Renew the whole world, merciful God.

Renew the whole world, merciful God.

Give us your peace, eternal God.

Give us your peace, eternal God.

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying,

"Now is the time! Here comes God's reign!

Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

Please greet one another with a bow, wave or text message during the musical introduction to the Gathering Hymn.

The text of this hymn was written in the 1970s by a Dutch Roman Catholic and set to a 17th century hymn tune. The text ties together today's worship service themes: gathering in this place in-person and online; the seed of good news planted in us; and how we serve one another in the world.



Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933 Music: A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, b. 1906 Text and arr. do 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Greeting

The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early disciples and then join their hearts in prayer.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please he seated.



WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

Children's Message

A pastor has a special message just for the children! Jesus embraced children and placed them in the center of the Christian community as models for discipleship.

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one

from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it

on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,

and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know

that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

In response to the ancient poem about the tree of life, we pray Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15. Our praise to God likens those who thrive in God's house to palm trees, which were often used in religious art in ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian temples, and to the mighty cedars of Lebanon, which grew to be 130 feet high.

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
 to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;

 3on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.
 4For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

 12The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
 13Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God:

they shall still bear fruit in old age;
 they shall be green and succulent;
 that they may show how up- right the LORD is,
 my rock, in whom there is no injustice.

Second Reading

Mark 4:1-9, 13-20

Jesus begins his ministry teaching the Parable of the Soils. This parable becomes the ground for much of Jesus' ministry. Some contexts are fertile soil for the seed of God's good news, while others are rocky ground.

¹Jesus began to teach beside the lake again. Such a large crowd gathered that he climbed into a boat there on the lake. He sat in the boat while the whole crowd was nearby on the shore. ²He said many things to them in parables. While teaching them, he said, ³"Listen to this! A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path; and the birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶When the sun came up, it scorched the plants; and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked the seeds, and they produced nothing. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. Upon growing and increasing, the seed produced in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in

another case a yield of one hundred to one." ⁹He said, "Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!"

¹³"Don't you understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The farmer scatters the word. ¹⁵This is the meaning of the seed that fell on the path: When the word is scattered and people hear it, right away Satan comes and steals the word that was planted in them. ¹⁶Here's the meaning of the seed that fell on rocky ground: When people hear the word, they immediately receive it joyfully. ¹⁷Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ¹⁸Others are like the seed scattered among the thorny plants. These are the ones who have heard the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the false appeal of wealth, and the desire for more things break in and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²⁰The seed scattered on good soil are those who hear the word and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one."

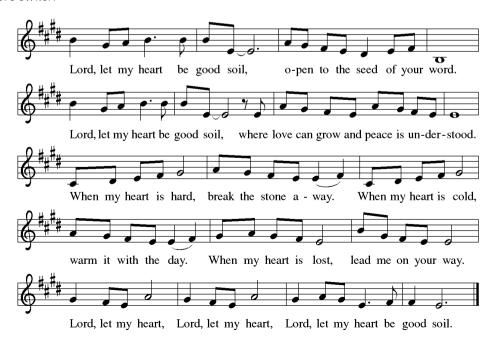
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Handt Hanson (b. 1950), a Lutheran musician and worship director in Minnesota, wrote this text and tune for a children's musical set in a rural community. This song was sung by a farm and garden seed store owner.



Gospel Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Michael Wilker



Please stand as you are able, proclaiming the word of God in song. Martin Luther added the Hymn of the Day to worship services so that the entire congregation could preach the sermon together in song, rather than only one preacher or soloist.

Hymn of the Day

The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field

ACS 952

Verses 1, 4, and 5

In this hymn, Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939) brings a fresh perspective to familiar parables of the kingdom of God, emphasizing its surprising and unexpected nature. God's reign is not triumphalistic or dominating but persistent and liberating. The contemporary text is set to Dunlap's Creek, a nineteenth-century shape-note tune that gives it joy and openness.



Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state. Please be seated during the announcements.

Ministry Announcements

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.

Please give online at www.ReformationDC.org/give or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email office@ReformationDC.org.

To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057

I Believe

Mark Miller

Offering lyrics are printed on the following page.

I Believe

I believe in the sun Even when it's not shining

I believe in love Even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God Even when God is silent



Presentation of Gifts

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

The Great Thanks giving

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.

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all that is, you were God. Outside all we know, you are God. After all is finished, you will be God. Archangels sound the trumpets, angels teach us their song, saints pull us into your presence.

And this is our song:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying: Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your rainbow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was arrested, 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 this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Jesus called God Abba, which means papa in Aramaic, and taught his disciples to pray like talking to their beloved parent. In the following version of the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to use the names Abba or Imma, which means mama, to call upon God who embraces you in love.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray:

Abba/Imma 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.

Invitation to Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper to forgive sins and renew our lives. We trust that God who raised Jesus from the dead to be alive with us now also joins us together in this moment of Holy Communion. Whether we are in the sanctuary or in our homes, the Holy Spirit comes and brings Christ's presence in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice when we share this meal together.

Those present in the sanctuary will come forward to share the meal. If you are at home, you can commune each other saying, "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are alone, say those words to yourself and know that you are not alone. You are joined to the body of Christ - the church - through this holy meal.

Instrumental Musical Offering

Paul Leavitt

Prayer after Communion

Please stand, as you are able.

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing of Graduates

High School Graduates

Eleanor Grant
Karl Kittleson Wilker
Sarah Ralston
Justin Scofield
Quinton Tobler Cunningham
Daniel Voss

College Graduate

Skye Carlson

Blessing Numbers 6:23-26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

God of Fertile Fields

ACS 1063

Verses 1,3, and 4

Having lived from 1891 to 1974, the author of this text, Georgia Harkness, was well ahead of her time. She was the first woman to teach theology in any American seminary. This hymn by Harkness was the winner of a hymn competition in 1955 sponsored by The Hymn Society. It is set to a tune by an Italian composer, Felice Giardini.

Hymn music and text are printed on the following page.

Sending Forth

Go in freedom. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sonata No. 4 Finale Mendelssohn

God of the Fertile Fields



Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Nicholas Barrette (6/13), Evan Benoit (6/14), Graham Finkenstadt (6/15)

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:

Ivy and Dan Finkenstadt (6/13), Barbara and David Ochmanek (6/16)

WE PRAY FOR ...

Ester Hardesty, president of the Langston Terrace Residents Association, as she undergoes radiation treatment for throat cancer.

Victoria, niece of Gloria Kenyon, for health and healing from surgery.

Karen, Andy Weaver's sister, that she has continued healing.

Chester Hart, as he recovers from surgery on his foot.

Children and their family members who live with cancer.

Jennifer Novak, as she recovers from leg surgery.

Robert Pfahl and his family, as he struggles with neurological and physical health matters.

Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.

For those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.

For the scientists and healthcare workers producing and distributing Covid-19 vaccines. For the Anacostia River.

Members and friends affected by Covid-19.

David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law, who is living with lymphoma.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service:

Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for:

Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick, Bernice Hoveland, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and Gloria Wolf.

Please email your prayer requests to Pastor Mike at wilker@ReformationDC.org.

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders

Preacher Pastor Michael Wilker Presider Pastor Ben Hogue

Assisting Minister Emily Andre Reader Matt Aviles

Cantors Jon Korman, Gabbi Levy, Jon-Michael Eclar,

Alexa Newlin

Zoom Host Facebook Host

Director of Music & Arts

Livestream Tech Team Christine Goepfert and Andy Weaver

Tellers Emily Sollie and Andy Weaver

The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, will be found on our website, www.ReformationDC.org.

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

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