



Lutheran Church *of the*
REFORMATION



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Our Common Prayer at Home
September 6, 2020

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome

You can use this worship booklet for worship at home. You can also join worship online and find other devotional resources at www.ReformationDC.org/worship. When there is more than one person worshipping in the same room or when you join the online worship service, one person reads the regular print and the other(s) say the **bold** print. The hymns are from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Sin is ever-present in our personal lives and social systems. When we do not turn from our own sins toward the mercy of God, we waste away and die as the prophet Ezekiel warns in the first scripture reading for today. But in Matthew, Jesus gives us a **way of forgiveness**. The “keys” that he gave to Peter two Sundays ago, he gives to the whole church for the sake of freedom and justice within and beyond the Christian community.

During September and October, Reformation is joining a world-wide movement of Christians to celebrate the **Season of Creation**. Hymns, prayers, and actions in worship are designed to help us thank God for creation, to repent of human abuse of creation, and to pray to God for guidance and renewal for the Earth and all creatures.

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 Wilker@reformationdc.org** or **Pastor Ben 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 reach out to Pastor Ben and he can discuss details and discern next steps with you!

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross †, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We hoard your gifts and abuse your Creation.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

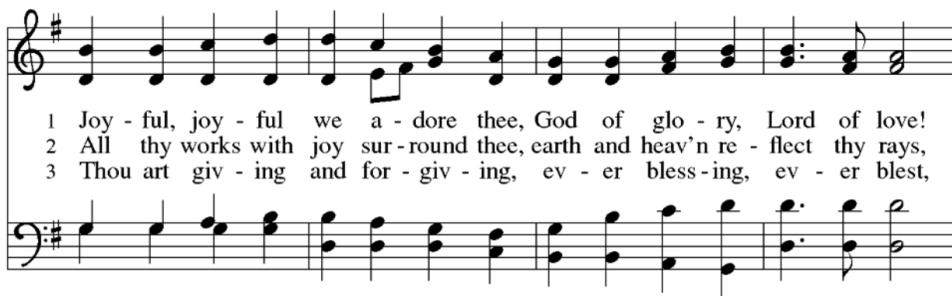
Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

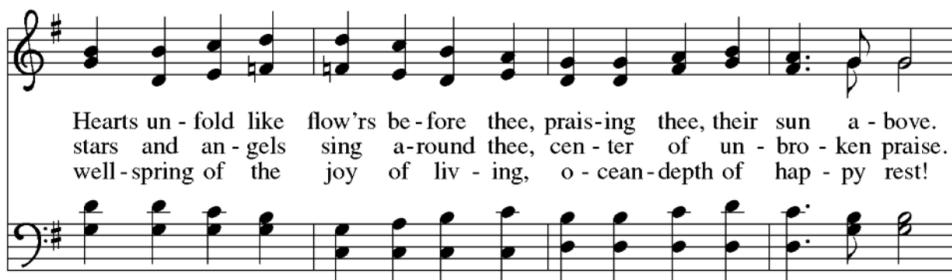
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God's work on Earth.

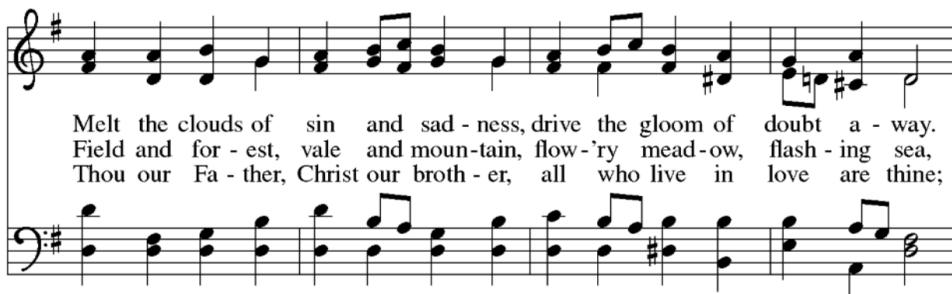
Amen.



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Greeting

The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer. Today's greeting begins with a quote from Hildegard of Bingen (1098-September 17, 1179) followed by Paul's blessing in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Good People, most royal greening verdancy, rooted in the sun, you shine with radiant light. God hugs you. You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.

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

Even though we are distant from one another, the Spirit unites us as we pray this ancient prayer that introduces the biblical readings for today.

Let us pray.

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

Dear God, enliven and preserve your church and all the Earth with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we humans will fail. Remove from us anything that causes us to harm ourselves and our neighbors. Lead us toward all that gives life, wholeness, and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



WORD

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

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

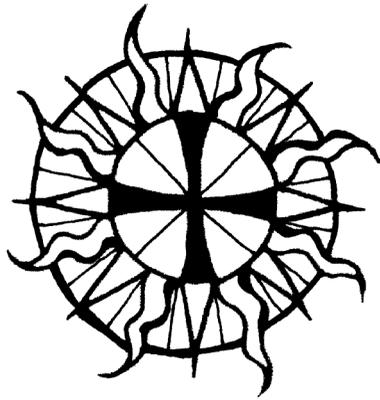
God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the nation. Even at the moment that Jerusalem is about to be attacked God still invites the nation to turn back to God and away from their sinfulness and its consequences.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40

In response to the hearing Ezekiel's call to repentance during a national catastrophe, this portion of Psalm 119 is a prayer from someone who sincerely desires to follow God's way. It recognizes the life-giving energy of God's instructions and prays that God's rule be at the heart of the psalmist's life. The final verse acknowledges that God's justice/righteousness gives life.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Pastor Michael Wilker



Hymn

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

ELW 716

Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, ev'ry race;
and in each person may I see
my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

Breakdown the wall that would divide
thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.

Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak
whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.

With thine own love may I be filled
and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where're I be,
may be divinely touched by thee.

This hymn was written by Olive Wise Spannaus (1916-2018) in 1960. The words of the first stanza came to her as she was ironing clothes and listening to the news of racial distress. She wrote the remaining verses and sent it to the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America which was a pan-Lutheran national organization confronting white racism.

Profession of Faith

The following profession of faith was written by Per Harling, a Swedish Lutheran poet and hymn writer. This profession is recommended for use during the Season of Creation (September and October) with Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Anglicans and other Christians on Earth.

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

**In God we are breathing, in God we are living,
in God we share the life of all creation.**

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

**In Jesus God is breathing, in him God is living,
through him we are reconciled.**

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

**In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.**

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**In God we are all made,
in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.**

Prayers of Intercession

We unite in prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the Earth, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community (*especially*). Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (*especially. . .*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
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.

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.

Mission Announcements can be found at www.reformationdc.org/worship

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 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*



SENDING

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

Sending Prayer

The Sending Prayer is from a worship resource of the Lutheran World Federation and is inspired by Martin Luther's writings and sermons.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Send us forth. Attentive to the wounds of the Earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

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.

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.

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:

Robert and Nancy Pfahl (9/6).

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Louise O'Connell, Jane Tobler (9/6); Michelle Luhrs, Ragnar Thoresen (9/8).

WE PRAY FOR. . .

Elizabeth Wirick, as she recovers and heals from a displaced tibial plateau fracture.

Cade, cousin of Kiri Nicholson, as he begins cancer treatment.

Allison Schneider and Andrew Shult as they welcome their new baby Graham.

Elsie Ntenda and Adelphe Ndolo as they welcome their new baby Qyra.

The family of Hae-Yin Loke in Singapore and his former partner Philip Moeller, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.

Maxwell Finkenstadt, who broke his arm on August 11.

The friends and family of Rehan, friend of Kiri Nicholson, as they remember him and commemorate his 23rd birthday.

The family of Tom Gill as they grieve his death and celebrate his life, including his daughter Tricia, his spouse Karen, and his sister-in-law Liz Tucker Manty.

John Amberson, brother of Julie Jones, for health and healing.

Chester Hart, for healing after triple-bypass surgery.

Members and friends affected by COVID-19.

Mike Cochrane, brother of Karen Carlson, in thanksgiving for a successful brain surgery and continued prayers for increased mobility in outpatient rehab.

Len Hawley, friend of Dale Manty, as he receives treatment for leukemia.

Wayne Krumwiede, for health and healing.

Mel Antonen, as he continues to struggle with serious health issues.

David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law.

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

Phil Abbott, Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick,

Bernice Hoveland, Mary James, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala,

Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Carol Ann Mumaw, 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

Presiding Minister	Pastor Ben Hogue
Preaching Minister	Pastor Michael Wilker
Assisting Minister	Sarah Stauderman
Readers	Helen Stauderman
Cantors	Jon Korman, Gabbi Levy
Zoom Host	Jane Tobler
Facebook Hosts	Matt Aviles
Livestream Tech Team	The Petree Family

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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A Reconciling in Christ congregation

Lead Pastor	Pastor Michael Wilker wilker@ReformationDC.org	President: Matt Fuehrmeyer Vice President: Bonnie Franklin
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Administrator	Tegan Peterson peterson@ReformationDC.org	Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard Treasurer: Roger Moffatt
Director of Music & Arts	Paul Leavitt pdleavitt0918@gmail.com	

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