

December 9-15, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



Peace and Joy in Every Day.
—Isaiah 55:12

The Weekly Word



Scripture Readings for Sunday, December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
All Readings Have Been Included in this week's Weekly Word

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray



A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



■ PSALM: Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. ⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb. ⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

"You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." —Isaiah 55:12



■ SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Rejoice always,
PRAY without ceasing
give thanks in all circumstances.





PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th

December 13	8:30	11:00
Ushers	George Duda	VOLUNTEER
Assisting Minister	John Race	Diane Stallings
Lector	George Duda	Tom Kellen



There will be **NO Table Talk** this week. Our next meeting will be next week on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30pm on ZOOM.



One Christmas Eve Service Planned

The Parish Council has decided to have **one Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.** As always, masks are required and we also are requiring reservations so we do not exceed the capacity allowed during the pandemic. We have safe socially-distanced space for 25 people.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NO LATER THAN 12 NOON on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th by emailing or calling the Parish Office. Please leave a message if you get the answering machine.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A ZOOM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO NOT ABLE TO ATTEND OR ARE UNCOMFORTABLE ATTENDING. THAT SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 8:00 p.m. ON ZOOM.



Happy Upcoming Birthday To:

Janice Bunting
Tuesday, December 15th

Jerry Plassman
Wednesday, December 16th

zoom WITH US THIS SUNDAY AT 10AM

CALL (415) 762-9988 or (646) 568-7788 AND follow the verbal instructions. Enter the meeting ID followed by the # key, then the participant ID. If you do not know your ID, simply press the # key. Please join us!

Coming up in January 2021...

- **January 9** Worship & Music Ministry Retreat via ZOOM at 10:00 a.m.
- **January 10** Parish Council and Officers Installation at both services.
- **January 11** Annual Reports due to Parish Office *for January 12th Council Meeting.*