

July 8-14, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



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

The Weekly Word

Scripture Readings for Sunday, July 12, 2020
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

All Readings Have Been Included in this week's Weekly Word

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.

“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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

■ PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled. ²To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come. ³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions. ⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. ⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might. ⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth. ¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase. ¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. ¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

■ SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Praise to you, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

P: Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Abiding God, care for all who are in need, especially (*names*). For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries, especially (*names*) and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died especially (*names*). Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



COUNCIL MEETING COMING UP!

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM.

Please have your Ministry Reports to the Parish Office in electronic format no later than 12 noon on MONDAY, JULY 13th so Patti can prepare packets for emailing and for your mailboxes.



TABLE TALK meets at 5:30pm each Wednesday, except for the second week of the month. Our next book is going to be

"Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom and How We are Stronger Together," by Dr. Tony Evans. This book explores biblical principles for healing our racial divide in our country.

zoom SUNDAY, July 12th
JOIN US!

TO CALL INTO A ZOOM MEETING Audio conferencing participant will need to call: **(415) 762-9988** or **(646) 568-7788** AND follow the verbal instructions. Enter the meeting ID you wish to join followed by the # key. You will be asked to enter your participant ID. If you do not know your participant ID, simply press the # key. Please join us!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CHRISTINE FRAGAPANE

Sunday, July 12th

ONEITA ERICSON

Saturday, July 18th



CORRECTION!

In last week's *Weekly Word* I indicated that Pastor John and Oneita had delivered 50 loaves of bread and/or cookies to Reformation members. I misunderstood and sent an email correction, but some of you missed it.

SO...please know that the intention IS to deliver to all Reformation members, but it will take a few weeks to accomplish that. They will give you a call before they attempt to deliver to you in the coming days and weeks. Thank you! —Patti

Reformation Coffee Group

...isn't ready to meet yet.

Keep on washing your hands and stay

- *Safe*
- *Prudent*
- *Socially distanced*



We'll keep you posted!



Mary and Blair Armbrister would like to thank Pastor John and other members for their calls during our time of sorrow. Also, for all the cards that have been sent to us. Last, but not least, for all of your prayers. It has truly meant the world to us knowing the love and support we have received from our church family.

Thanks again, Mary and Blair Armbrister