

March 17-23, 2021

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



The Weekly Word

“We’re not in this alone, fix your eyes on Jesus” .

—Deuteronomy 31:8

Scripture Readings for Sunday, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be

made in the future: a

covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.



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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and personal confession.)



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.**

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.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.



■ PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb. ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

■ SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10



⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN: John 12:20-33

P: The gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Praise to you, O Christ!





APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**



*“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you
nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

—Deuteronomy 31:8

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



P: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**





As the Sun with Longer Journey



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

Text: John Patrick Earls, osb, b. 1935

Music: NAGEL, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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THIS WEEK *at Reformation...*

Wednesday, March 17th 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor John

NO TABLE TALK

Sunday, March 21st 10:00am ZOOM Service

11:30am Service on the Website

Wednesday, March 24th 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor John

6:30 p.m. Table Talk



Happy Birthday
Mikki Lubertazzi

Tuesday, March 23rd



The Facebook Bible Study for Week Four is listed below.

March 22-28

Day 22 Psalm 84:1-7

Day 23 Psalm 97:1-12

Day 24 Ecclesiastes 2:22-26

Day 25 Isaiah 29:13-19

Day 26 Isaiah 35:1-10

Day 27 Psalm 119:105-112



Readers needed for the ZOOM Palm Sunday Passion Story

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, we will once again read the Passion Story from Mark's Gospel. We are currently in need of people to take on the roles of the following: **Jesus, Peter, Judas, High Priest, Servant, Pilate, Witness, People, and Narrator.**

Because of COVID restrictions during Childcare hours, if you are able to take one of these parts, please contact Patti at the Parish Office and she can arrange to meet you at the front door and give you a copy of the script for the part you have chosen. Please let us know you wish to participate no later than Tuesday, March 23rd. Thanks so much for your help!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY ZOOM SERVICE

Thursday, April 1st at 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY ZOOM SERVICE

Friday, April 2nd at 7:00pm

EASTER VIGIL RECORDED ON WEBSITE

Saturday, April 3rd

EASTER SUNDAY ZOOM SERVICE

Sunday, April 4th at 10:00am and 11:30am on the Web

Voting members needed for Virginia Synod Assembly

The Virginia Synod Assembly will be held on **Saturday, June 12th via ZOOM.**

We need one male and one female voting member to participate. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested in serving. Thank you!