

September 23-29, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



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

The Weekly Word

Scripture Readings for Sunday, September 27, 2020
Seventeenth 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.



“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.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



■ FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

■ PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. ⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

■ SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13



¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Praise to you, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

P: In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, especially (*names*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community, especially (*names*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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



HAPPY UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS TO:

Amy Jo Scarino
Friday, September 25th

Dorothea Cloud-Gary
Monday, September 28th



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Pastor Ericson and his family on the loss of his beloved Aunt Mildred. His Aunt Millie died in New York after a 10 year battle with Alzheimer's. Pastor John says, "she was the glue of our family," and asks for prayers for his cousins Glenn, Rich, Diane, Kirk, and their families.

Our prayers are with Pastor and his family on yet another difficult loss in their circle of family and friends this year.

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 participant ID, simply press the # key. Please join us!



**THERE WILL BE
NO TABLE TALK
TONIGHT.**

**WE WILL RESUME
ON WEDNESDAY,
OCT. 7th.**

A message from your Property Ministry

Your Property Ministry needs your help. We really need others to "step up" to help with the mowing and trimming. None of us do this alone, but we need weekly assistance to keep Reformation property looking good. **Please let George Duda or John Race know if you can help.** They can assist you in learning how to operate the equipment. Any help you can provide will be GREATLY appreciated. Thank you!

Update on this year's

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center Annual Banquet & Benefit Auction

We may not be able to gather like we have in the past, but we're not letting that stop us from celebrating and supporting the mission of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center! As COVID-19 continues to impact the globe, we have made the bold and exciting decision to shift our Annual Banquet & Benefit Auction to a virtual celebration!

Join us for this FREE EVENT via ZOOM from the comfort of your own home on Friday, October 30, 2020; 6:30—7:30 p.m.

View PPCC's new mission video; help us recognize our Board and staff; hear mission moments from our counselor; and maybe even win a door prize!

Register by Friday, October 23 by calling the PPCC office at 757-873-2273

Zoom Meeting ID: <https://zoom.us/j/97703711697>