

August 12-18, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church

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



The Weekly Word

From the Pastor

My sisters and brothers in Christ, as we approach the re-opening of in-person worship, I want to be very clear that no one should attend worship if you are at all uncomfortable doing so. **We will continue to have other options available to you, including the continuation of Zoom worship and the posting of messages on our website.**

We recognize that this is an extraordinary time and no one should feel in any way coerced or strong-armed into attending. We reiterate that if you are feeling in any way unhealthy, please do not attend for the safety of others. Masks are required to attend our in-person worship as well as the practice of social distancing. In-person worship is one option you may choose if you are healthy and feel comfortable doing so. *There is no negative connotation to choosing to stay at home and worshiping in one or more of the ways that are available.* This applies to members as well as to staff. We do not want anyone coming to worship in our facility that does not feel comfortable doing so. We will see some of you at 8:30 or 11:00. We will see others of you on our Zoom meeting. Be safe and be in prayer for all of us during this time of transition.

In Christ,

Pastor John

Scripture Readings for Sunday, August 16, 2020
Eleventh 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 all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

■ PSALM: Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. ⁶The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us. ⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

■ SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Paul writes: ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Praise to you, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. (continued next page)

P: You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing, especially (*names*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation, Reformation Lutheran Church and Childcare, grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints, especially (*names*), join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

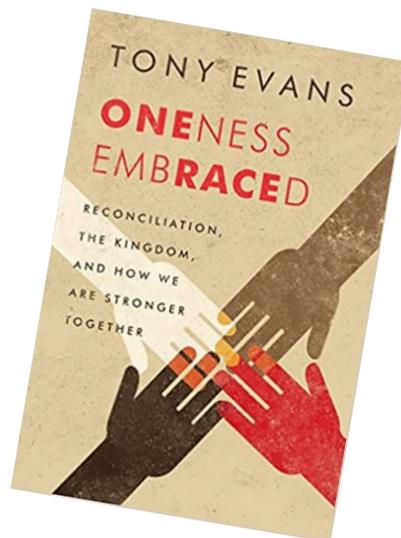
C: **Amen.**



**TABLE TALK
WILL RESUME ON
WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 19th AT
6:30 P.M. ON
ZOOM!** We are just

beginning discussion of the book, **“Oneness Embraced”** by Dr. Tony Evans. Copies are available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

We are just beginning this book, so now is the time to join us for fellowship and interesting discussion. Please join us!



**HAPPY 34th
ANNIVERSARY!**

We wish Pastor John and Oneita Ericson a very happy 34th wedding anniversary this coming **Sunday, August 16th.**

Congratulations and blessings to you on this milestone!

zoom **SUNDAY, August 16th at 10am!**

TO CALL INTO ZOOM MEETING, the 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!



thank you

A heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who sent cards and expressions of sympathy upon the passing of my dear uncle.

Your kindness and words of comfort were greatly appreciated at a most difficult time. I am so grateful for our Reformation Family. Thank you so much. —**Oneita Ericson**



Be prepared if you are returning to Worship

In-person worship begins this coming Sunday. Please follow the policies in place to help keep everyone as safe as possible at this time.

- ◆ **Masks are required for worship.** If you do not have one, a mask will be provided.
- ◆ We ask that people not linger indoors after services, as the ushers need that time to properly disinfect the church.
- ◆ Entering and exiting will be through the front doors only.
- ◆ Refrain from touching things as much as possible. An offering plate/basket will be near the Sanctuary. Bulletins will be placed on the chairs before you arrive and you must take them with you when you leave.
- ◆ There will be no singing and no Communion. Sharing of the peace will be from pastor to congregants verbally and there will be no responsive readings. Congregants will follow along non-verbally with the reader.
- ◆ **All areas of the church, aside from the Sanctuary and restrooms, will be closed,** except for necessary use by ushers and tellers. If the Parish Office is used, the disinfecting rules for the office and its equipment are posted and must be followed.