

August 19-25, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



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

The Weekly Word

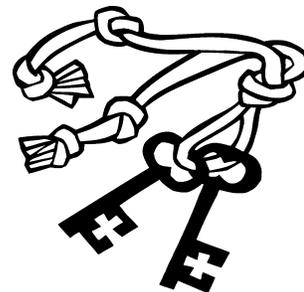
Scripture Readings for Sunday, August 23, 2020
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

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.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

■ PSALM: Psalm 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. ²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. ³When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. ⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD. ⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar. ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. ⁸You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

1 will give thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart.

■ SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

(continued next page)

P: You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care, especially (*names*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You call us into this community in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead, especially (*names*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. 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.



zoom **SUNDAY, August 23rd 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!

From the Pastor

Our first Sunday of in-person worship has come and gone. We had nine (9) worshipers at our 8:30 a.m. service and eight (8) at our 11:00 a.m. service. We give thanks for all those who helped us prepare for this time and for all those who participated. **I want to reassert our desire for you to worship in whatever way is helpful and comfortable for you. If you enjoy coming to worship at Reformation that's great. If you prefer Zoom or to listen to worship/sermons online, that's great too.**

I want to also say a big word of thanks for all your generosity in these uncertain times. Your giving of time, talents and treasures has been exemplary. I have been even more blessed than usual with my colleagues; Janice, Patti and Joy for all of their efforts as we have moved to this time of reopening.

We continue to be served well by our ministry teams, especially the folks who keep our buildings and grounds functioning. Thanks to the Wagner family for the gift of a new riding lawnmower. I know our Property Ministry Team is very grateful!

If you have thoughts, concerns, ideas for how we move forward in this time of challenge, I am more than grateful to have a conversation. Contact me Tuesday-Thursday each week or on Sunday.

In Christ,

Pastor John

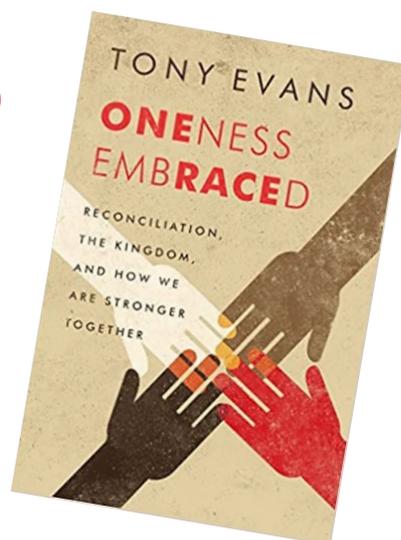


**TABLE TALK
WILL RESUME
TONIGHT AT 6:30
P.M. ON ZOOM!**

We are just
beginning

discussion of the book, "**Oeness 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 BIRTHDAY
Sam Tatum
Sunday, August 23rd**

**Jim Ericson
Tuesday, August 25th**

**Chris Stoll
Wednesday, August 26th**