

July 21-28, 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 26, 2020*  
**Eighth 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.**

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*“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*

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ■ FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

### ■ PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart. <sup>130</sup>When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments. <sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name. <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me. <sup>134</sup>Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments. <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes. <sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

### ■ SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. *(continued next page)*

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<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### ■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

<sup>31</sup>Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

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## 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: Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick, especially (*names*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light, especially (*names*). 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.**





**NO TABLE TALK TONIGHT**...We hope to resume soon on Zoom. Our next book discussion will be **“Oneness Embraced”** by Dr. Tony Evans. Copies are available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

**Zoom SUNDAY, July 26th**  
**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!



## Returning to Worship

As we mentioned last week, procedures were developed for the reopening of our **Childcare on Monday, July 27th**; as well as for the beginning of in-person **Worship on Sunday, August 16th.**

Masks will be required for worship. If you do not have one, masks will be provided. We will continue to have our usual two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., however, Living and Learning will not meet during this initial phase. There will also be **NO** coffee hour between services. Please recognize that these dates are targets and are subject to change if the number of positive Covid-19 cases warrants that change. *The new Policies and Procedures are once again attached to this email so you know what to expect when you return to worship services.*



*Sympathy*

Our condolences to the Ericson family on the recent passing of Oneita’s uncle. The prayers of our Reformation Family are with you at this difficult time.

**TEACHER PREP** began Tuesday for the reopening of our Childcare. Teachers cleaned rooms, posted necessary signs and prepared sanitation stations. We pray for the continuing safety and health of our children and staff.



L-R Mary Waller, Tess Bluxome, and Joy Irick

## **MENCHVILLE HOUSE DINNER REGISTRATION EXTENDED!** **YOU CAN STILL SIGN-UP THROUGH TOMORROW!**

The drive-thru-and-pick-up dinner to benefit Menchville House Ministries takes place on Tuesday, July 28th. Minimum donation is \$20 per plate. For reservations call 838-5980 or visit [www.menchvillehouse.com](http://www.menchvillehouse.com).