

November 4-10, 2020

Sharing good news from  
Reformation Lutheran Church



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

# The Weekly Word

*Scripture Readings for Sunday, November 8, 2020  
Twenty-third 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

P: Let us pray



*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ■ **FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24**

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### ■ **PSALM: Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me. <sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. <sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame. <sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!" <sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

### ■ **SECOND READING: Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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## ■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW: Matthew 25:1-13



Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

*Praise to you, O Christ!*



### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer, especially (*names*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail especially (*names*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(continued next page)*

P: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.  
**Amen.**



### WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

November 8th	8:30	11:00
<b>Ushers</b>	John Race	Mary Armbrister
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	George Duda	Diane Stallings
<b>Lectors</b>	David Gunderlach	Tom Kellen



**JOIN US FOR TABLE TALK  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER  
4th AT 6:30pm ON ZOOM!**



## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, VIA ZOOM OR PHONE.

Instructions for both Zoom and phone-in attendance are listed below and were also included in the Annual Meeting and Stewardship letters mailed to all members of the congregation last month.

A copy of the meeting agenda and last years' minutes have been attached to this emailed **Weekly Word** and printed copies have been included for those who receive **The Weekly Word** by mail.

**ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:** I.D. 226-278-6607      **Password:** 302821

**PHONE-IN INSTRUCTIONS:** To join the meeting by telephone you 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.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT COUNCIL PRESIDENT,  
JERRY PLASSMAN OR PASTOR JOHN.**



Don't lose sight of

**Reformation  
Coffee Group**

...even though we won't be meeting

in November

Stay safe and stay tuned!



**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!

### Our guest Worship Leader on Sunday, November 15th will be Michael Burnette,

Campus Minister for United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University. Michael received a degree in Philosophy/ Religious Studies from CNU in 2011 and has been engaged in one form of ministry or another for most of his adult life. At his home church, Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Poquoson, he served as Youth Ministries Director from April 2017 to September 2019.



He is currently a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. A native of Poquoson, Michael currently resides there with his wife Christina and their son Henry. We warmly welcome him to Reformation next week in Pastor John's absence.