

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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11 T I M O T H Y 2 : 11

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 9, 2022

October 9, 2022
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.
Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.
God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:
your sins are forgiven ✠ and you are made whole.
God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.
Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (all verses) Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
- 3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
- 4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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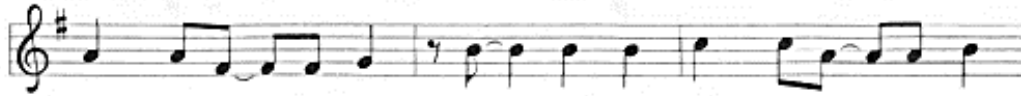
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine,
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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THE FEAST IS READY

LMI and refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *TEN THOUSAND REASONS*

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

A reading from 2 Kings.

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

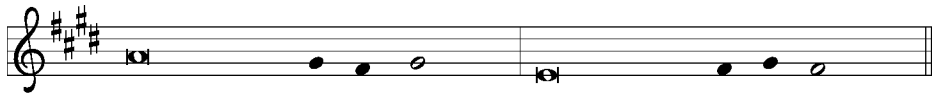
^{15a-c}Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 111

(sung responsively between choir and congregation, beginning with the choir)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered;
you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice;
all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- ¹ nant forever;
holy and awesome ¹ is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- ¹ ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- ¹ dures
forever.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A reading from 2 Timothy.

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel,
⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the
word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so
that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The
saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

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GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Baptized in Water* (all verses)

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,



cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the tray.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - - men.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Just As I Am, without One Plea* (all verses)

Just As I Am, without One Plea

- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM BLESSING

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you’re

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you
with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Voices Raised to You* (all verses)

Voices Raised to You



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
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Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

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SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Linda Berberich
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector.....	Richard Graven
Securing Offering.....	Edna Harris & Becky Pecha
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Linda Berberich
Communion Bread	Zoe Mummert
Communion Assist	Marjorie Dale & Ilona Laney
Attendance last Sunday	42

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mary Armstrong and J. Austin and Nellie Hess given by Susie & Glenn; Sally & Mark & family; Randy & Mary Jane & family.

The rose bud vase this morning is placed to the Glory of God in honor of Gwenivere Virginia born 9/27/2022. Gwen is the daughter of Kristen & Corey Hardman, and granddaughter of Pastor Barb.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Prayer requests for the following, *family and friends of Mrs. Mae Duffey, Barbara Beckner, Tracy Fredericks, Louis Norman, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Betty Sterner, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Help is needed to serve a dinner on Tuesday, October 11. See sign-up sheet on table in Sunday School room.

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

Apple Butter and Candy Order forms are here! Candy making – mark your calendars **Thursday 11/3/22 & Friday 11/4/22.** We will be making candy on Thursday, November 3rd. Keep Friday, November 4 open as an extra day of candy making if needed. Apple Butter & Candy Order Forms are in the newsletter or see Zoe Mummert for a copy. Apple Butter Order Forms will need to be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 9. **Candy Order Forms will need to be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 23.** We will **set up on Wednesday evening, November 2 at 6:30 pm.** Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Sunday School Room. Candy can be picked up Saturday, Nov. 5 10-12, and Sunday Nov. 6 after church.

Apple Butter Orders: Order forms need to be turned in October 9 and can be picked up with candy orders on Saturday, Nov. 5th 10-12 or Sunday, Nov. 6th after church.

Many thanks to Edna Harris for all the time and energy she gave to fulfill her duties as treasurer for the past two years. Edna will be stepping down from treasurer at the end of the year. Prayerfully consider if you feel called to serve in this ministry.

Power Pack Meals: The power pack program has resumed for the 2022-2023 school year. Please place the items you donate in the gray tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are also accepted, write your check to Solomon's, and put Power Pack in the memo line.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for the rest of the year will be on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

OCTOBER 9, 2022
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's wisdom strengthens the powerless.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Elisha heals Naaman
Tuesday	2 Timothy 2:8-15	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Psalm 46:1-7	God is our mighty fortress
Thursday	James 3:13-18	Wisdom from above
Friday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Saturday	Psalm 111	Praise God for wonderful works
Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, may your wisdom that lifts up the powerless and humbles the powerful guide us each day of our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food; give us wise hearts to know that all good things come from your goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in God and receive a wise heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe someone who is wise?
- How is the wisdom of God different than the wisdom of people in leadership?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

On Eagle's Wings



DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c.

How God chooses to act stands in stark contrast to how we act toward one another. In ancient times, people bowed down to the powerful, barely able to look up or speak. Naaman, who is an important and powerful leader from Aram (Syria), has leprosy. The king of Israel fears Naaman's position and threatening presence. However, a slave girl who was captured out of the land of Israel speaks with a voice worth hearing. Her simple and honest words lead Naaman to Elisha, the great prophet of Israel, to be healed of his leprosy. Elisha, who doesn't even bother to address Naaman in person, provides a simple and easy request for Naaman to be cleansed in the River Jordan. This humiliates and infuriates Naaman's pride. While Naaman is offended, his own servants convince him to do as requested, and he is healed. The God of Israel is then acknowledged for the greatness due the Lord, and nameless and powerless servants deliver the wisdom and power of God.

Discuss: How has the wisdom of God spoken to you from an unlikely source?

Pray: **God of the powerless, help us to rejoice in your wisdom and strength that speaks and works through the lives of those often overlooked and unseen, through Christ Jesus our Healer. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you honor those often not recognized for their abilities and wisdom?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one of them thanked Jesus. (Luke 17:11-19). As God's people, we are called to count our blessings each day and give thanks to God. Take time this week in your home, at work, or at school to say thanks to others who have been kind, thoughtful, and contributed positively to your life or the lives of others. Then pray: **Dear God, you have blessed us with so much. We ask that we be given thankful hearts, through our Lord Jesus. Amen**