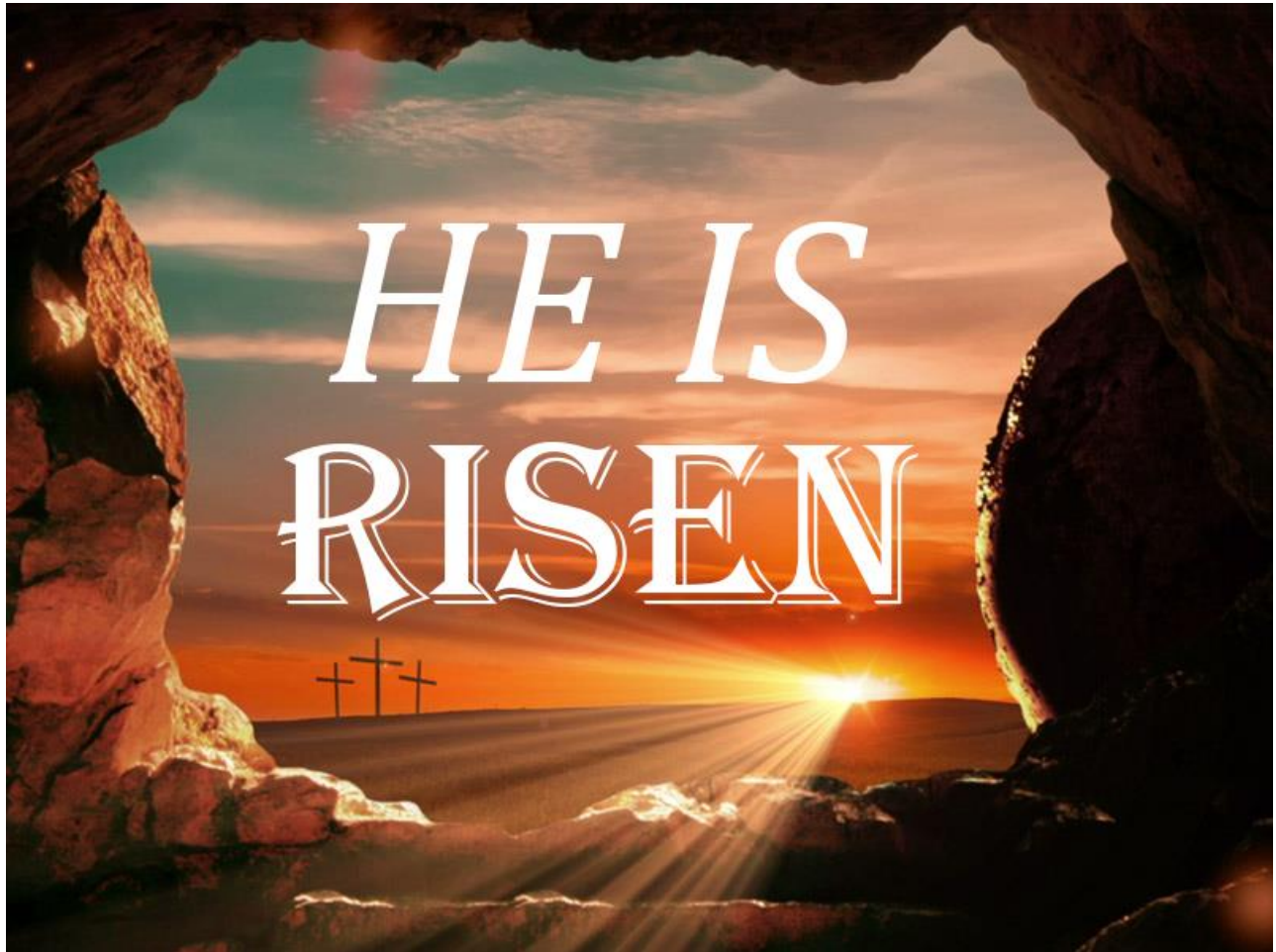


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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with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

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY
April 9, 2023

April 9, 2023

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

AT THE TOMB

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.**

(We light the Paschal Candle symbolizing God, the pillar of fire, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.)

We pray together: **Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

HYMN *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* (ELW 752)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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(We sit by the fire listening to a story of our history. God is always there leading us forward.)

READING: Exodus 13: 17-22

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may

change their minds and return to Egypt.’¹⁸ So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness towards the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle.¹⁹ And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, ‘God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.’²⁰ They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness.²¹ The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear friends, on this most holy morning the church waits. We wait for the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul teaches us that by Baptism we were buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life. Therefore, now that the struggle of Lent is over, let us renew the promises made at our Baptism. I, therefore, ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject Sin, and confess the faith of the Christ, the faith in which we baptize.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I do with the help of God.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

ASPERGES

The sprinkling of the water from the baptismal font is to remind us of our Baptism and the renewal of the vows we make this morning. Remember, you are God's own child!

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men, women and children your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

ACCLAMATION OF THE CONGREGATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed.** Alleluia!

LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!



EASTER HYMN *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (ELW 367)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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ALLELUIA RETURNS

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

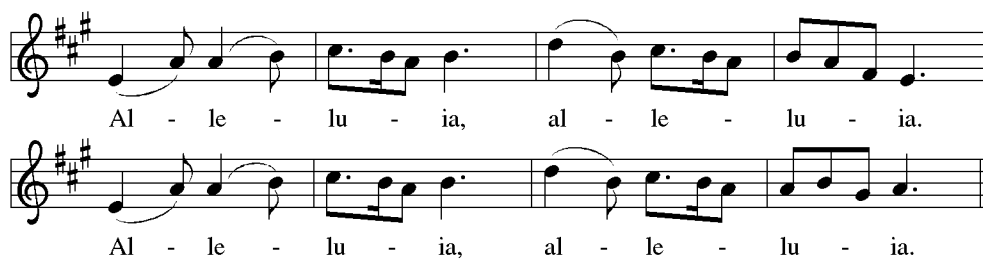
O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Celtic*): *Celtic Alleluia* (ELW 174)

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a treble clef. The first staff begins with a quarter note D4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. The second staff begins with a quarter note A4, followed by a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. The third staff begins with a quarter note E5, followed by a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note B4. The fourth staff begins with a quarter note A4, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL: Mark 16: 1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

MESSAGE PASTOR BARB

CHOIR EASTER ANGEL SONG

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Please respond.*)

P: Risen Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

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OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Holy, Holy, Holy (Schubert) (ELW 190a)*

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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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 *(sung)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in song 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

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat. Please notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar. The Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG *We Remember You* (W&P 152)

The image shows a musical score for a communion song. It consists of six staves of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "In bro - ken bread and the cup that we share, we re - mem - ber you. In bro - ken bread and the cup that we share, we re - mem - ber you. We re - mem - ber you, Je - sus. We re - mem - ber your love for us. We re - mem - ber the blood you shed. We re - mem - ber you." The piano accompaniment features chords and simple melodic lines that support the vocal melody.

In bro - ken bread and the cup that we share, we re -
mem - ber you. In bro - ken bread and the
cup that we share, we re - mem - ber you.
We re - mem - ber you, Je - sus. We re -
mem - ber your love for us. We re - mem - ber the
blood you shed. We re - mem - ber you.

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HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Bread of Life from Heaven* (ELW 474)

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
- 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (Young)* (ELW 206)



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
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 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!* (ELW 365)



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

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 Paul Kostreski
Acolyte Sarah & Rebekah Aldrich
Securing Offering Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Bread Janice McEntire
Communion Assist Lilly Chiado & Peggi Norman
Attendance last Sunday 51

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Hess given by their children and their families.

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!

Prayer requests for the following: *Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Terry Fell, Callie Mummert, Bernie Harris, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Doc Ensinger, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Phyllis Brehm, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Clayton Schwartz, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: 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.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

Apr 10 - Council 7PM
Apr 11 - Christian Ed 7PM
Apr 12 - Psalms Bible Study 10AM
Apr 13 - Choir 7PM

Help is needed to set up tables on Saturday, April 15 at 3:00pm.

Tickets are available for the Congregational Dinner on Tuesday, April 25.
Adults - \$7.50, Children (5-11) - \$4.00, Under 5 - free

Communion Cards – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card only once per calendar year, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

Maranatha Paper Drive: During the month of April, we will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are: toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the gray tote under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. A prerecorded worship service and bulletin will be available on the website. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

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.

2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for 2023 are on the bulletin board 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.



*The Easter Flowers in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by:*



Mummert family

In memory of Glenn & Nelle Mummert

Sam & Becky Mull

In memory of our parents

In memory of our son John

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Carolyn McCleaf & family

In memory of Doug McCleaf

Mark & Sally Gayman

In memory of our parents

In honor of our children & our grandchildren

Ron, Bonney, Kevin & Bo

*In memory of our parents, Bill & Louise Coldsmith
and Jack & Bea White*

Rich & Janice McEntire

In memory of our parents

In honor of our sons and families

Dot Hunter & family

In memory of Jay Hunter

Rosemary Wishard & family

In memory of Don Wishard

Ilona & Jerry Laney

In honor of Audrey & Clark

Bill & Lilly Chiado

In memory of Bob Brown

In honor of our children

In honor of our grandchildren & great-grandchild

Wayne & Peggi Norman

In memory of Rebecca & Emily Norman

In memory of Rich Plummer

In memory of Wayne & Ellen Norman

In memory of Richard K. Plummer

In honor of Melissa Norman

Donald E. Wildeson

In memory of Joyce S. Wildeson

Bill & Linda Wepking

In honor of Marjorie McMullin

In honor of Sylvia Wepking

Bernie & Edna Harris

In memory of our parents, brothers and sisters

Aaron Shreiner

In memory of Rhonda Shreiner & Curt Shreiner

In memory of Robert Shreiner

In honor of Carter Shreiner

Vernon Socks family

*In memory of Barbara Socks, Hubert Socks, Verda Socks,
and Dorothy Socks*

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Veilleux

In honor of Annamarie Sourbier

In honor of Alex Sourbier

In honor of Aaron Sourbier

In honor of Abraham Sourbier

In honor of Amelia Sourbier

Thank you to the following for teaching children during church service:

Barbara Aldrich

Janice McEntire

Zoe Mummert

APRIL 9, 2023
EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus is alive!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	The joyful return of exiles
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:14-20	We are a new creation
Friday	Genesis 2:4b-25	Creation of man and woman
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord's always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her. **John 20:17b-18 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, this is the day that you have made; let us rejoice in your steadfast love and the power of Christ's resurrection for all that you have made. In the name of the risen Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. O Lord, we give you thanks for sustaining us with this food and with the power of Christ's resurrection for us and all the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you rejoice in the risen Lord.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When was a time you were in disbelief and couldn't understand something that was happening?
- As we continue to grow and mature, how is the Christian faith an ongoing process of learning and growing?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Christ is Risen Today



DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:1-18.

The resurrection account, the first Easter Sunday story as recorded in the Gospel of John, is filled with misunderstandings. Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and thinks that someone has taken Jesus' body away. Two disciples come and see it as well. The disciple that Jesus loved (traditionally thought to be John, the author of the Gospel) believes, but believes what? The very next verse says "*as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead*" (v. 9). The disciples leave and go home! Mary, however, remains and talks to two angels. She does not seem awed by the encounter so it is likely she does not recognize them as angels. Then she sees Jesus and thinks he is the gardener. Finally, she hears Jesus call her by name. She then recognizes him and he sends her out to tell the disciples. Like Mary and the disciples, we, too, are on a journey of understanding what Jesus' resurrection means for us and the world. It is a life filled with new insights and awe that leads us to tell others what we have seen and heard.

Discuss: What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith and understanding that we may be filled with joy and be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection for the world you love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you share the good news of Christ's resurrection with others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Kindness Rock Project was a trend that began in 2015. Small, smooth stones are painted with messages of kindness and hidden for others to find. Bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season as a reminder that the stone was rolled away. Find or buy smooth stones, paint them, and write the words "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" on each one. Use those stones to bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season. Place the stones in locations where someone can easily find them.