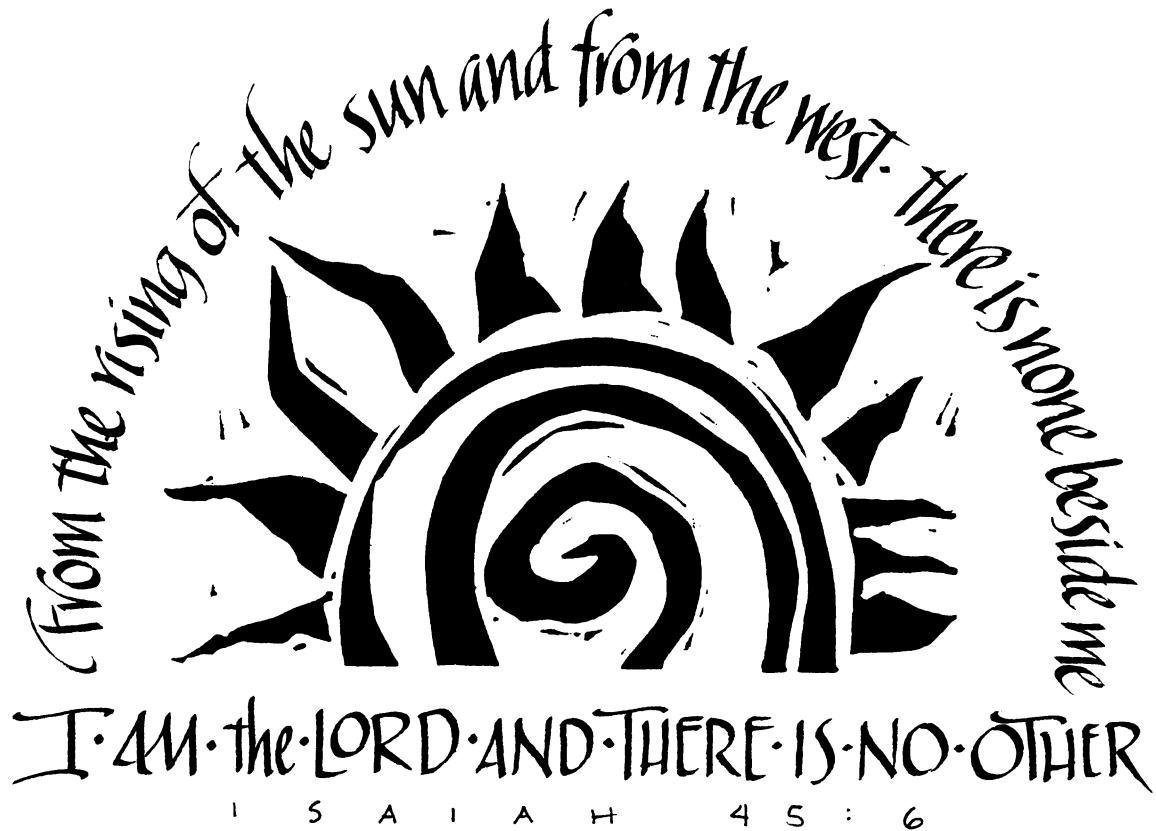


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve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

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**OCTOBER 22, 2023**

**October 22, 2023**

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

## **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *God Is Here!* (ELW 526)



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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 (Sung Twice) *He Is Exalted* (W&P 55)**

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev - er ex-alt-ed, and I will praise his

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joi-ce in his ho - ly

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**      *Ceaseless Praise*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9

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



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- <sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**
- <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

- <sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.
- <sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly  
<sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and  
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved  
by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in  
word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you  
know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became

imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Open Our Eyes, Lord* (W&P 113)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je - sus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus."

The guitar chords are: D, G<sup>2</sup>, G, Em<sup>7</sup>/A, A<sup>7</sup>, G/D, D, A/C#, Bm, D/A, GM<sup>9</sup>, Em, A<sup>7</sup>, G/D, D<sup>2</sup>, D, DM<sup>7</sup>, A/G, G, Em<sup>7</sup>, A<sup>7</sup>, G/D, D, A, Bm<sup>7</sup>, D/A, GM<sup>9</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>, A<sup>7</sup>, Em/D, D.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON REV. ANGELA ZIMMANN**



## HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (ELW 841)



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hopkins) (W&P 35)***

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. Chord diagrams are provided above the guitar line for each system.

**System 1:** Chords: C/D mn, Dm/C. Lyrics: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

**System 2:** Chords: C<sup>7</sup>sus, C<sup>7</sup>, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C. Lyrics: you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

**System 3:** Chords: Gm, F/A, F/Bb, C, F, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>. Lyrics: I might be re - newed. So fill me and

**System 4:** Chords: Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, Gm/D, C<sup>7</sup>sus, C<sup>7</sup>. Lyrics: heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

**System 5:** Chords: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, F/Bb, C, F. Lyrics: ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,  
 all things belong to you.  
 We bring your gifts to the table,  
 that all might be fed.  
 Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

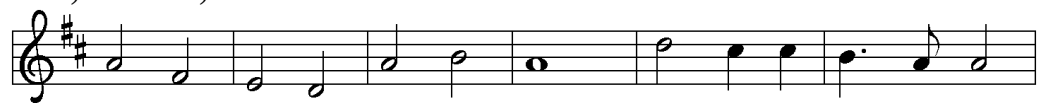
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

## **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**

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

## 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 basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. 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



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, grant us peace.

## HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (ELW 623)



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help-less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg-ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and joyful, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "We re-joyce in the grace of God poured up-on our lives; lov-ing-kind-ness has come to us be-cause of Je-sus Christ. We re-joyce in the grace of God, our hearts o-ver-flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!"

We re-joyce in the grace of God poured up-on our lives;  
lov-ing-kind-ness has come to us be-  
cause of Je-sus Christ. We re-joyce in the  
grace of God, our hearts o-ver-flow.  
What a joy to know the grace of God!

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor .....	Rev. Angela Zimmann
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Phil Johnson
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Peggi Norman
Securing Offering .....	Zoe Mummert & Wayne Norman
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up .....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Bread .....	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist .....	Marjorie Dale & Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday.....	44

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of our parents, Bill & Louise Coldsmith and Jack & Bea White given by Ron, Bonney, Kevin & Brian.

**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:** *Becky Ensinger, Ron Bunting, Rose Wishard, Bobby Seilhamer, Sam Mull, Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, 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.**

### **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

October 26 - Choir Practice 7PM

**A special thank you to Rev. Angela Zimmann** for filling in as supply pastor this morning.

**If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Ron Coldsmith, Council President.** Pastor Jane Nicholson, pastor of First Lutheran, Chambersburg, has agreed to provide this care for Solomon's until such time as an interim or settled pastor is called to serve.

**Candy Making!** - Thursday October 26 at 10:00 am to set up and on Friday October 27 at 8:00 am to make candy.

**Congregation Meeting Sunday November 12:** The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on November 12. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve a 2024 operating budget and to elect members to the congregation council. A proposed budget was sent to all member households and is available in the office. Please review the budget before the meeting. You may contact council president Ron Coldsmith with any questions. *Since a quorum is needed all Solomon's voting members are encouraged to attend the meeting either personally or by Zoom on November 12. Zoom information will be sent via email before the meeting.*

**Our Thanksgiving dinner is fast approaching.** The menu is: turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans or corn, cranberry relish, applesauce, apple or pumpkin pie, roll, coffee, tea, and water. **Price:** Adults \$15.00, Children (5-11) \$7.00, Under 5 – Free. **Serving time** is 5:00PM – 7:00PM. **See sign-up sheets** in Sunday School room for preparation and serving.

**Praise God! Hallelujah!** Pastor Michael Allwein will be our part-time interim pastor beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please come out to welcome him back.

**If you would like to sign up for altar flowers,** the following Sundays in November are still available: 11/12, 11/19, & 11/26.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**Per our Oct 3 zoom meeting, we set Sunday Nov 19 at 5PM for our joint Thanksgiving Service to be held at New Franklin Assembly of God Church.** Everyone is invited and please bring finger food to share. Blessings, Ron Coldsmith.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need starting in September. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write “power pack meals” in the memo of your check.

## 2023 Order Form



Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Christmas Poinsettias is asked to fill out the following form and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate, along with a check make payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Poinsettia Order." Order deadline for **red, white, or marble (pink & white)** poinsettias is November 12, 2023. Cost is \$8.00. This is a 6 ½ inch pot (4-7 blooms)

*The Christmas Poinsettias in  
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends  
have been donated by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(name)*

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Total Poinsettias ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias must be taken home on Dec. 24th *after the evening service*.  
Extra order forms are available in the pamphlet rack at both doors.

**OCTOBER 22, 2023**  
**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Love and trust God above everything else.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 22:15-22</b>	<b>The question of paying taxes</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 45:1-7</b>	<b>Cyrus serves the Lord</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</b>	<b>The example of faith</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 28</b>	<b>Prayer for help</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Proverbs 3:1-6</b>	<b>Trust God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 17:5-8</b>	<b>Trust the Lord</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 96</b>	<b>Sing a new song</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 22:34-46</b>	<b>Loving God and neighbor</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*For the people of those regions [Macedonia and Achaia] report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NRSV)*

**PRAVERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of the nations, you alone are worthy of worship and praise; give us wisdom to see the false gods around us and remain true to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you made the heavens and the earth to praise you. We praise you now for this food that strengthens the body and gladdens the heart. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with joy and the steadfast love of Jesus.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- Doing the right thing is not always easy. What is something you have struggled with?
- A false god can be anything that we worship and trust to make us feel safe and secure. What false gods have you been tempted to worship in your life?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lead Me, Guide Me*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 22:15-22.

A surprising point of this story concerns trust in God, not false gods. Jesus had just successfully opposed religious leaders in the temple. Now those leaders go from debate to entrapment by getting Jesus to take a position that would place him against the Roman government (a deadly decision) or against the Hebrew Scriptures (an unfaithful position). Jesus navigates between these traps by tricking his opponents. He asks to see the coin used for the tax. It's a "gotcha" moment. The Jewish leaders should not have had the Roman coin in the temple. It has the face of the Roman Emperor on it and a confession that Emperor Augustus is the Son of God! With the coin they show Jesus the image and confession of an idol. Jesus says give back to Caesar the idolatry of the empire. Everything else is God's. These religious leaders had not considered that Jesus would outwit them, but he did. His words leave his opponents amazed and speechless. Idolatry to false gods can easily trip us all.

*Discuss:* What challenges you to be faithful to God above everything else?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, give us wisdom to turn away from false gods in our life and courage to follow you and you alone through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you care for those who are struggling to trust God?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul wrote that the Christians in Thessalonica had become imitators of Jesus. Play a game of Simon Says. Then have a discussion about ways in which we imitate others in our lives—both in good and bad ways. Talk or think about what it means to be an example of Christian faith, hope, and love to others. *Pray:* **Lord Jesus, open our hearts to receive the gospel with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit so that we may become examples to all believers. Amen.** (1Thessalonians 1:6-7)