

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."

REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2023

October 29, 2023
Reformation Sunday

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric) (ELW 504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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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.

Chord symbols: F, F/A, B♭, C/B♭, B♭/C, C, Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, B♭/F, E♭M⁷, B♭/C, F, B♭/F, F.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Be Still*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

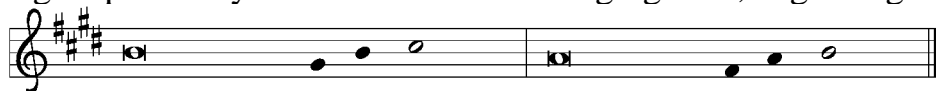
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

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



¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**

³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

D G² G Em⁷/A A⁷
O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM⁹
Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A⁷ G/D D² D
him, and say that we love him.

DM⁷ A/G G Em⁷ A⁷
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm⁷ D/A GM⁹
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em⁷ A⁷ Em/D D
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON REV. ALAN WILSON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Built on a Rock* (ELW 652)



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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: 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)*

C/D mn Gm/C
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve
 you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that
 I might be re - newed. So fill me and
 heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -
 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 *By Grace We Have Been Saved* (ACS 1006)

Refrain



By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,



not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.



1 On the days when you are weak, on the
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will



days when you are strong, rich or poor,
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,



Refrain

young or old, just lis - ten to the song.
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.
there is hope, and love will take you home.

Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971

Music: BY GRACE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman

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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 *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: We re-joice 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 - joice 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 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* (ELW 729)



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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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. Alan Wilson
Church Office Email Address office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Larry Socks
Acolyte Janice McEntire
Lector..... Wayne Dale
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.....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of our father Paul Skelly celebrating his birthday in heaven on November 1st given by daughters Bonnie, Roxy, Tammy, and Lisa.

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:

November 2 - Choir Practice 7PM

A special thank you to Rev. Alan Wilson 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.

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 on November 4th 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 5th. Please come out to welcome him back.

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 29, 2023
REFORMATION SUNDAY

The good news heals our divisions.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	Psalm 141	Prayer for preservation from evil
Thursday	1 Kings 2:1-5	David's instruction to Solomon
Friday	1 Corinthians 16:13-20	Final messages
Saturday	Psalm 46	God is your refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

Romans 3:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, may your grace and mercy cleanse the church and set us free to be your witnesses of hope and peace through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of power and might, thank you for the seas that roar, the mountains that tremble, and for this food that gives us strength and courage for each day. Amen. (Psalm 46:3)

A Blessing to Give:

May God free you to be blessed by our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Is it easy or difficult for you to be silent when you are with friends or family? Explain.
- Silent moments can be a time of renewal as we gain new insights and appreciation for life around us. When has silence been a renewing experience for you?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Paul writes to Christians in house churches in Rome. These Christians oppose one another with words and finger pointing. One group is righteous and faithful while the other is not. The church today experiences a similar polarity. Paul speaks to us now as he did then: Be silent! The law that we want to justify our own lives silences every mouth because *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (v. 23). Once Paul declares our sinfulness and judgement on one another, we are ready to hear good news. The good news is that the only thing that justifies us is God’s undeserved kindness (grace). Only God is righteous and God’s righteousness shown in Christ is more than a morality, it is an activity that brings the unholy world into God’s goodness. Through faith, we experience being reconciled to one another and to God through Christ. We are now part of God’s righteousness to heal, save the world, and trust that God’s goodness can even heal our condemnation of others through faith in Christ.

Discuss: How is this good news for you?

Pray: **Gracious God, thank you for your goodness that acts in our lives and world to bring hope and peace to our divided relationships and world through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, through what words and actions can you show acceptance and care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. Circle or highlight words in Psalm 46 that you feel describe God as a mighty fortress. Read Psalm 46 aloud and pause for a moment when you read a word that is circled or highlighted. After reading, say, “Amen.”