

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The Kingdom of God



FIRST A LEAF
BLADE PUSHED
THROUGH AND
LATER THE WHEAT
HEADS APPEARED
AND FINALLY THE
GRAIN RIPENED.

M A R K 4:28

"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."

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 13, 2021

June 13, 2021

Third Sunday after Pentecost

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (*verses 1&3*)

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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 (ELW p. 148)

We Rejoice in the Grace of God

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). 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!"

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR HERB SPOMER

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&4)

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Please stand if you are able.

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: Lord, in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERATORY *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

We Are an Offering

692

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 7/8 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The score includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes).

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

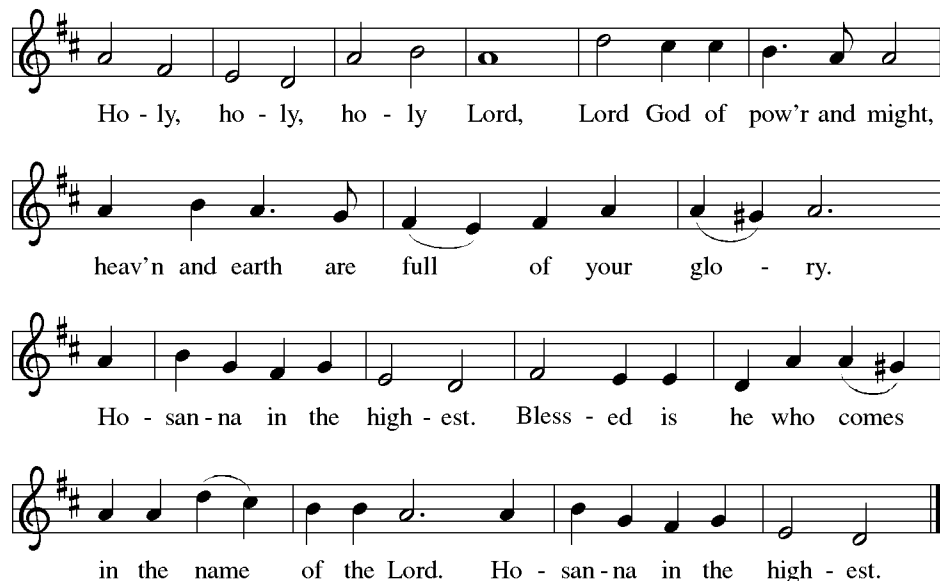
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 (ELW p. 153)



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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your 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 *Build Us Up, Lord* (ELW 670)

Build Us Up, Lord



1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our



us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our



ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.



Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us



guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us



world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain



Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in



faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your



word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
Music: BUILD US UP, Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Herb Spomer
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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Barbara Aldrich
Acolyte	Sarah Aldrich
Lector.....	Leah Wolfinger
Securing Offering.....	Sam Mull & Phil Johnson
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggy Craven
Communion Clean-Up	Peggy Craven
Bread Cubes	Peggy Craven
Communion Assist	Becky Mull
Attendance last Sunday	36

Stewardship Thought - Third Sunday after Pentecost, **June 13, 2021**

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

As we emerge from our Covid cocoons, we are all new creations, changed in a variety of ways. In addition to renewing existing relationships, we can look for new ones that will help us deepen our faith walk, challenge our biases and prejudices, and love our neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of my parents Nelson and Anna Brooks given by Linda Berberich.

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!

2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will **not** be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

Prayer requests for the following persons *Courtney Shreiner, Kristy Nienstedt, Patsy Wildeson, Linda Hoke, Mary Ellen Bower, Carol Pugh, Joe Mock, Bill Brindle, Jamie, Nelle Mummert, Darrell Veilleux, Tom Black, Phyllis Foreman, April Hughes, Larry Lehman, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Dee Dee Fox, Jody Swartz, Quentin, Linda Small Naus, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* 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.

We welcome Pastor Herb Spomer, who is preaching and presiding today.

The June/July 2021 edition of the **LivingLutheran** is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

Vacation Bible School's "ROCKY RAILWAY" June 21 - 25, 2021 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Kids: 3 yrs. – 6th grade. Celebration Sunday will be June 27th during our Worship Service in the SFC. Come join the fun!

2021 Summer Camp information is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex for those who are interested.

Personal Care Kits: Social Ministry will begin collecting items to create Personal Care Kits during the month of June. Items needed are:

- One light weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"), dark color
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz any brand in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- One sturdy comb like the one on display in the Sunday school room
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

You may purchase any item or items from the list and place them in the gray tote in the Sunday school room.

The **annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive** will continue through the summer months. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. The auxiliary is grateful for the generous support we have received. This enables the Auxiliary to make donations to the many important programs and services at The Village at Luther Ridge. If you would like to join the auxiliary or need more information, contact Becky Pecha.

Power Packs: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. See Pastor Bill if you would like to give a monetary donation.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

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

JUNE 13, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The reign of God will not be stopped.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Living by faith
Wednesday	Psalms 107:4-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Thursday	Acts 5:27-42	The apostles are persecuted
Friday	Zachariah 8:1-17	God's promises to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	A song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." **Mark 4:31-32 (NRSV)**

PRAVERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, in Christ Jesus we thank you that by day and by night your reign of steadfast love and faithfulness will not be stopped. (Psalm 92:1-2)

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, for the seed that becomes the plant that supplies the food that shows your love, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God bless you now and always. (Psalm 92:2)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds



DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fail again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.**