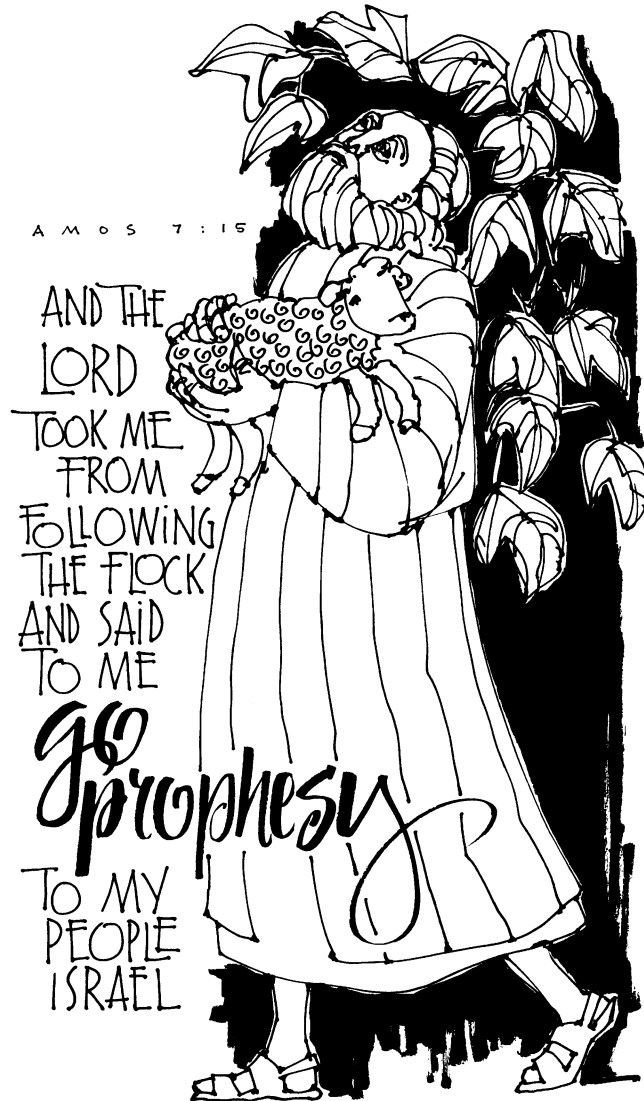


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JULY 11, 2021**

**July 11, 2021**  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.*

**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*)

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## 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 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 OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

A reading from Amos.

*Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.*

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.’ ”

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13**

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

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD<sup>l</sup> God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their<sup>l</sup> hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to<sup>l</sup> those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell<sup>l</sup> in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have<sup>l</sup> met together;  
righteousness and peace have<sup>l</sup> kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up<sup>l</sup> from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look<sup>l</sup> down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed<sup>l</sup> grant prosperity,  
and our land will<sup>l</sup> yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be-<sup>l</sup> fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for<sup>l</sup> God a pathway.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



## **GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BILL**

## HYMN OF THE DAY (*verses 1&3*)

### Let Justice Flow like Streams



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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## THE RECEPTION OF A NEW DISCIPLE

*Earl "Sarge" Weaver*

### PRESENTATION

I present Sarge Weaver, who desire to make public affirmation of his baptism and join into the community of Solomon's Lutheran Church.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Sarge, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called him to yourself, enlightened him with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished him in the community of faith. Uphold him in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the heart of him whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*I renounce them.*

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.**

## **AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY**

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.*

People of God, do you promise to support Sarge and pray for him in our shared journey in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Sarge the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his faith, guide his life, empower him in his serving, give him patience in suffering, and bring him to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Let us rejoice with Sarge in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**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)

The musical score is written on six staves of music in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. It features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below 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.**

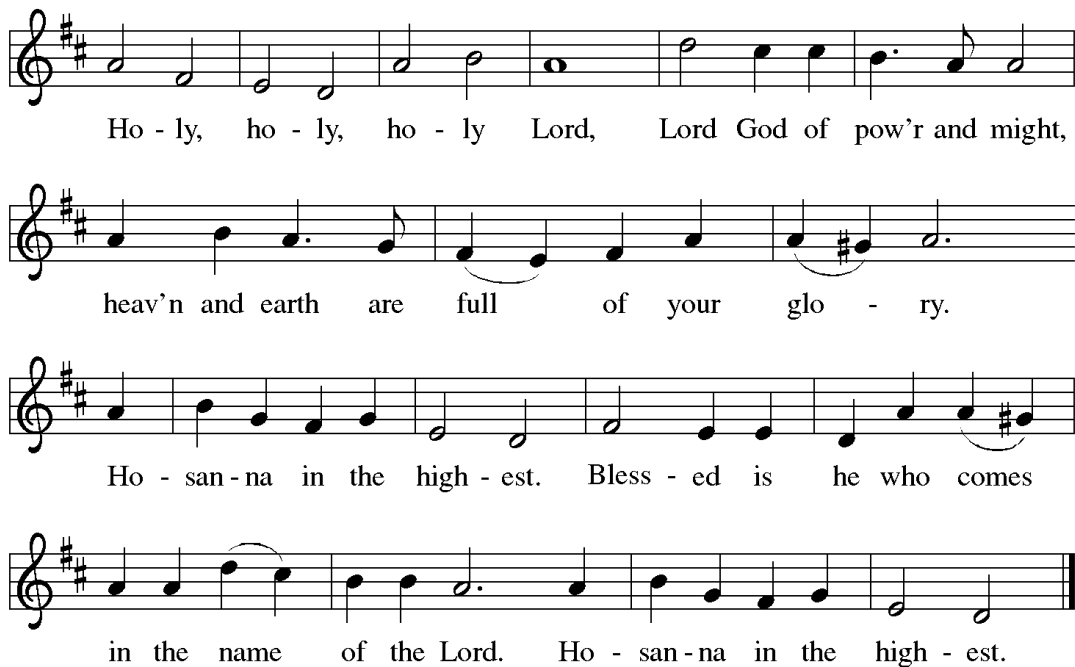
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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 (verses 1&3)

### God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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

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Head Usher .....	Marjorie Dale
Acolyte .....	Rebekah Aldrich
Lector.....	Barbara Aldrich
Securing Offering.....	Ilona Laney & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Janice McEntire
Communion Clean-Up .....	Janice McEntire
Bread Cubes .....	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist .....	Becky Mull
Attendance last Sunday .....	37

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Marvin McKenzie and Steve McKenzie given by La Rue McKenzie.

**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 *Peace and comfort for the family and friends of Nelle Mummert, Matthew Bowen, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Jennifer Kozar, Thelma Briggs, Dave Bowen, Linda Keller, Kristy Nienstedt, Patricia Yetter, Courtney Shreiner, Patsy Wildeson, Linda Hoke, Mary Ellen Bower, Carol Pugh, Joe Mock, Jamie, Darrell Veilleux, Tom Black, Phyllis Foreman, April Hughes, Larry Lehman, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Dee Dee Fox, 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.

**Relay for Life – Chambersburg Event Fundraising opportunity** – Roy Pitz Brewing Company (140 North Third Street, Chambersburg) will donate 10% of all food and drinks sales every Thursday in July to the Chambersburg Relay for Life event. It includes dine-in, take-out and online orders from the Beer Stube and Side Slice Pizza! Organize a group of friends & family to support Roy Pitz Give Back Thursday on July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 3 pm to 9 pm.

Please contact Becky Mull with any questions.

If you would like to join Solomon's Relay for Life team, please register online at [relayforlife.org](http://relayforlife.org) OR call 1-800-227-2345. Paper forms are no longer available. The event is scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021 from 6 pm to 10 pm at Norlo Park.

Thank you for your support!

**No Sunday School classes** during the summer months. Classes will resume on September 26.

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

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.

**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.

**JULY 11, 2021**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*God's steadfast love and faithfulness.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 6:14-29</b>	<b>The death of John the Baptist</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Amos 7:7-15</b>	<b>Vision of setting a plumb line</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:3-14</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for blessings</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 86:1-17</b>	<b>Save me, Lord</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 7:7-11</b>	<b>A chosen people</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Leviticus 26:1-13</b>	<b>Rewards for obedience</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 85:8-13</b>	<b>God speaks peace to the people</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</b>	<b>Jesus teaches and heals</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*  
**Psalm 85:10 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of glory and might, guide the rulers of the earth toward justice and mercy for the sake of peace in your world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we see in this food a banquet filled with your love that brings justice and peace to all the earth. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May our God and the Lord Jesus Christ bless you with love and faithfulness. (Psalm 85:10)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- If you had a magic wand, what would you want to do or have happen?
- We like to have power, but power can be misused and be insensitive to others. Give an example of someone misusing their power.
- Jesus brings a power full of love and faithfulness. Where do you see that power in action?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 6:14-29.

This story of the beheading of John the Baptist at a banquet hosted by King Herod presents an image of contrasts. This story comes between last week's Gospel reading about Jesus' disciples traveling without riches or power of their own and staying with others as guests. The Gospel reading two weeks from now is about Jesus' own banquet of feeding hungry souls on a hillside. Jesus treated the people with compassion like a shepherd caring for the sheep. Earthly powers represented by Herod bend toward corruption, greed, violence, and impulsive actions without thought of consequences. Jesus' rule brings people together in peace, feeds the multitudes out of love, and brings healing and an end to demonic powers. We are reminded that earthly powers and governments are not the rule that wins the day in God's universe. We are called to an ordering of life where *"love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other"* (Psalm 85:10). How does Jesus' power in your life influence your thoughts and actions?

***Pray:* Shepherding God, in a world that seeks to dominate and humiliate others, we thank you for your reign of love and faithfulness that will never let us go through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

In our forms of government, local, regional, and national representatives need to hear from us, especially about issues that relate to our moral resolve. How have you voiced your views on current issues?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 85 talks about peace. Verse 8 states, *"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts."* Make a list or draw a picture of what brings peace to you. Then, read the verse slowly three times. Pause after each reading and wonder what God may be saying to you today. Close by praying the Lord's Prayer.