

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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J A M E S 3 : 1 8

*"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."*

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**September 19, 2021**  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:  
**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**  
**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**  
**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**  
**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**  
**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**  
**Listen when we call out to you for help.**  
**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.  
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG (*verses 1&4*)

### There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

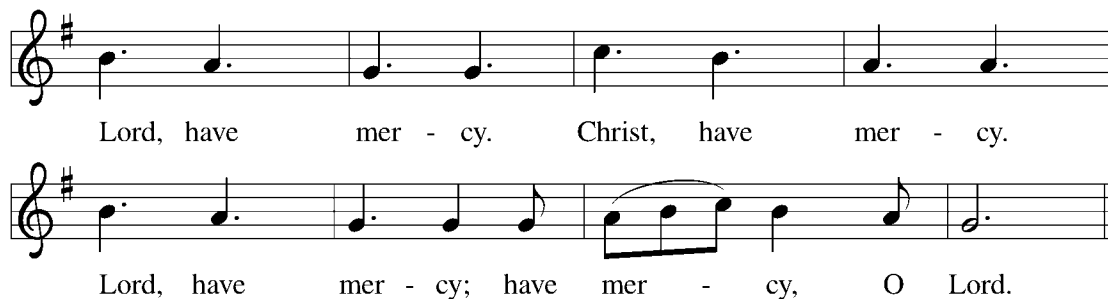
Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## 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.**

## KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

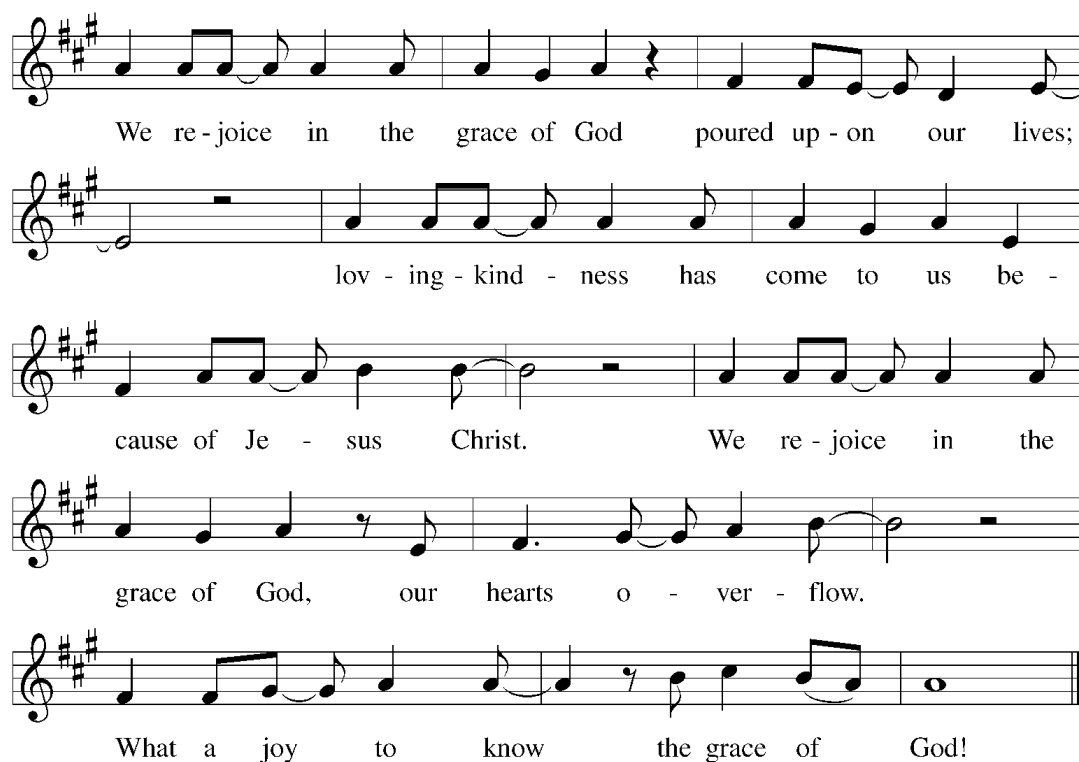
Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie  
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## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### We Rejoice in 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 - 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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from Jeremiah.

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 54

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

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, <sup>1</sup>by your name;  
in your might, de- <sup>1</sup>fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my <sup>1</sup>prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words <sup>1</sup>of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

## **SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a**

A reading from James.

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&4)

### Children of the Heavenly Father

#### *Truggare kan ingen vara*



*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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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.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **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

### On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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### SERVING TODAY

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Head Usher ..... Linda Berberich  
Lector ..... Bonney Coldsmith  
Securing Offering ..... Becky Mull & Zoe Mummert

**Stewardship Thought - Sept. 19, 2021** (17th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **James 4:1, 2** – Those conflicts and disputes among you ... do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. James puts his finger on the pulse of human misery. We drive ourselves crazy by craving the things we don't have and envying those who have more than we do! Spiritual maturity and practicing steward/discipleship help bring us sanity.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 *Bo Coldsmith, Alan Johnson, Beth Floyd, Colleen Johnson, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Kaitlyn Dovey, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, Rev. Peter Emig, Clif Rau, David Riggelman, Thelma Briggs, Patricia Yetter, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, 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.

**Luncheon Invitation Oct 3:** The congregation is invited to attend a light luncheon in celebration of Richard Graven's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 3 in the Fellowship Center after church. Meet his family and enjoy his presentation on "How I Became a Christian".

**Lutheran Disaster Response Hurricane Ida:** The hurricane caused devastation on the Gulf Coast and then caused extreme flooding in the Northeast, where over fifty people died, and thousands suffered severe property damage. LDR is on the ground, helping to rebuild communities. You may help in the effort by donating to "LDR-Hurricane Ida." Place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the office. 100% of your donation goes to the disaster response. Thank you.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Aids Afghan Refugees:** The evacuation of Afghanistan has meant over 20,000 refugees have arrived in the United States. You are encouraged to go to the LIRS.org website to learn how you can help by acting, donating, advocating, and praying for Afghan allies and their families. You may donate directly or place your offering in the collection plate or send it to the office. Mark your donation "LIRS: Afghan Allies." Thank you.

**Christian Ed. Committee meeting** September 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room.

**Needed:** 8oz. canning jars for Apple Butter. If you have any you would like to donate we would appreciate your help. Please see Zoe Mummer or Frances Reichard.

**Apple Butter:** ½ pint - \$4.00 & pints \$7.00. Orders due - Sunday, October 10, 2021. Order forms in Sunday School room.

**Candy Making:** ½ lb. bag \$7.00 & 1 lb. bag \$12.00. Orders due - Sunday October 10, 2021. Sign-up to help make candy on Thursday, October 28 & October 29, 2021. Set up: Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Order sheets and sign-up sheets in the Sunday School room.

**Bible Study Begins September 8.** Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. Starting September 8, we will be

studying the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be featured in the lectionary readings for Year B, beginning in Advent. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

**Adult Sunday School Begins September 26.** Pastor Bill will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts at 9:00 a.m., in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome. You can prepare by reading the Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel texts appointed for the day.

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

**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.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Jesus' followers are to care for the powerless.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:30-37</b>	<b>The servant of all is the greatest</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 11:18-20</b>	<b>Plot to kill Jeremiah</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>James 3:13–4:8a</b>	<b>Wisdom from above</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Galatians 5:13-15</b>	<b>Christ gives freedom</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Isaiah 42:1-9</b>	<b>A servant song</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Peter 4:7-11</b>	<b>Serve others</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 54</b>	<b>A cry to God for help</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Avoiding sin</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*[Jesus] sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”* **Mark 9:35 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of heaven and earth, may we follow the way of Jesus and learn what it means to trust in you through Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, just as you feed us with this gift of food today, we thank you for caring for us with your goodness and mercy. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May your life be blessed by the love of God through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- How would you describe your friends, the people with whom you associate regularly?
- Society encourages us to “climb the social ladder.” What does that mean to you?

- How would you describe the life Jesus wants you to follow?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: Mark 9:30-37.*



Chapters 8-10 in Mark include three predictions of Jesus' death. Each prediction is connected with his disciple's misunderstandings and then some kind of teaching about discipleship. The focus of Jesus' words is more than a general endorsement of humility. It moves us in the direction of personal association with the vulnerable and the powerless, those considered "last" in society. In Jesus' day and in the Roman Empire, a child was without power or importance. To lift up and value a child was contrary to social norms of Jesus' day. When Jesus describes his own life's work, he makes a claim on us. We are to follow his way, the way of suffering and being the last. It is an active rejection of domination and the powers of this world. What is evident in these predictions is that Jesus' followers don't get it. His understanding of what it means to be "first" in life is so different from what we hear and see in daily life. It takes time to understand what it means to follow Jesus. It may take a lifetime. In the meantime, we are to care for the people who feel unimportant and powerless and be able to celebrate with them that life is redeemed and blessed. Who would you identify in your community as those who are considered powerless and "last of all"?

***Pray: Almighty God, through Jesus, you come to us with a power like no other. Help us to follow Jesus into a new way of life that loves you and all others. Amen.***

## SERVICE

Jesus said, *"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* (Mark 9:37) Many places in the world and in our own communities have children in need. Think or talk about children who are in need of food, clothing, and shelter. Keep them in your prayers. Is there a way you can help and support children in need or an organization that works with them?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The International Day of Peace is observed each year on September 21st. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981. The Bible reading for Tuesday this week is from James 3. *"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace."* (v. 18) Think or talk about what it takes to make peace. Then write a list of situations or places that are in need of peace. Light a candle as you pray for each one on your list. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, please bring your peace to \_\_\_\_\_ . Amen.**

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