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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."

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 1, 2022

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING SONG (all verses)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

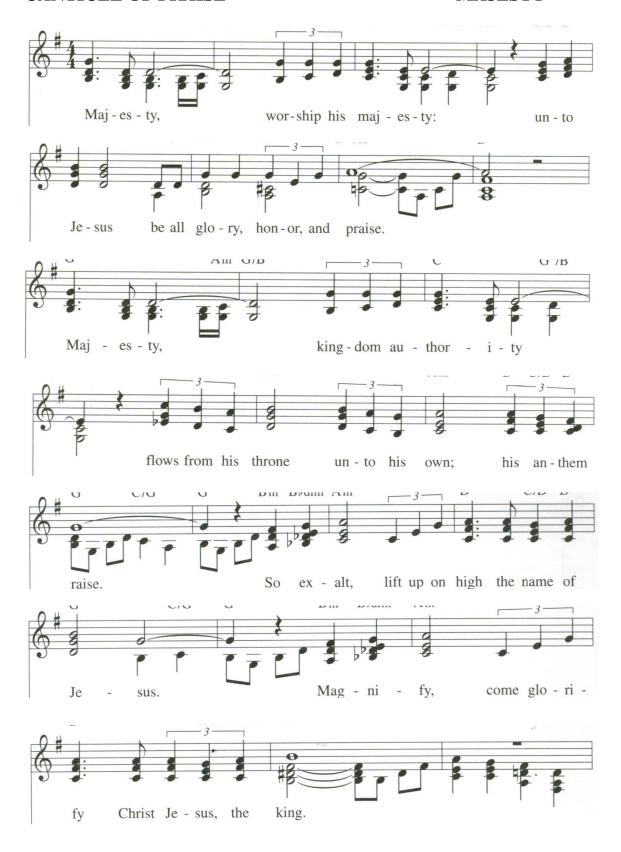


GREETING

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

MAJESTY





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM The Easter News

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

A reading from Acts.

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [¬The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30

(Sung responsively between women & men, beginning with the women)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried | out to you, and you restored | me to health.

³You brought me up, O LORD, ¹ from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down ¹ to the grave.

⁴Sing praise to the LORD, ¹ all you faithful; give thanks in ho- ¹ly remembrance.

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶While I felt se- | cure, I said,

"I shall never | be disturbed.

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

⁸I cried to | you, O LORD;

I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mer- cy upon me;

O LORD, be my helper."

¹¹You have turned my wailing | into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

¹²Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from Revelation.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might

forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter

went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY (all verses)

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
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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, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERING RESPONSE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, 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. Please 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 BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION



Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **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 (all verses)

This Joyful Eastertide



Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry
Cell Phone Number	717-357-3150
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Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte	Sarah Aldrich
Lector	Terry Fell
Securing Offering	Becky Mull & Larry Socks
Communion Set-Up	Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Clean-Up	Bill & Lilly Chiado
Bread Cubes	Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Assist	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday	69

Stewardship Thought - May 1, 2022 (Third Sunday of Easter, Year C) John 21:12a – Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." There's nothing like gathering for a meal to build community. Jesus hosted meals to reassure his disciples of his love and presence. Notice that Jesus' meals are always relational, not transactional. Fostering community through table fellowship and conversation helps us see the Christ in one another's faces. Who are you inviting to the table?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Scott McKenzie & Tommy Eichhorn given by LaRue 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!

Prayer requests for the following Family and Friends of Bud Armstrong, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Kristen Hardman, Marsha Brooks, Sister Barbara Barry, Becky Pecha, Patricia Yetter, Baby Warren Baker, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World, Walter Myers, Mark Cooley, Carol Locke, Aurora Shultz and her parents David & Brittany, Jamie Gopalan, Linda Wepking, Bonnie Hudson, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Manny Negron, Millie Kulkusky. 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.

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Help is needed to serve a luncheon on May 11, 2022. Please see sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room.

Monumental VBS 2022: Monday June 20th – Friday June 24th; 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Ages: 3yrs – 6th Grade. Celebration Sunday: June 26th at 10:15 am. See Barbara Aldrich or Janice McEntire for registrations forms.

Annual Auxiliary Membership Drive - The annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Your support allows the auxiliary to continue to make generous contributions to SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge, including donations to the Inn Endowment Fund and Homecare & Hospice Endowment Fund. These funds are essential to providing continued benevolent care. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Becky Pecha, your congregational representative.

<u>Volunteer Opportunities</u> - Volunteers are currently needed to assist residential living residents and team members on off-campus outings to restaurants, concerts, theater performances, and educational presentations. Please contact Linda Beaver lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org if you are interested in this or would like to explore other volunteer opportunities at The Village at Luther Ridge. Volunteers play an integral role in providing compassionate care and support to those we serve.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for the rest of the year will be on the side table in the Sunday School room beginning April 24. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Solomons' Call Committee invites you to attend one of the scheduled meetings to review and discuss the results of the ministry survey for the Ministry Site Profile. Those of you that completed a survey, will be able to see the final calculation of the survey. Those of you that were unable to complete a survey will be able to share your thoughts at the meeting you choose to attend. The first meeting will be held <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>May 11th at 7 PM</u> (Coffee and dessert will be provided). The second meeting will be <u>Sunday</u>, <u>May 15th immediately following Coffee Hour</u> after the worship service. Both meetings will be held in the adult Sunday School room.

The council is forming a media ministry team where all things computer will be cared for under one umbrella. This includes the worship services, office computers, Facebook account, etc. The more people who help, the less work for everyone. Is God calling you to learn new ways of preaching the Good News boldly following the example of Jesus Christ? Wayne Norman has agreed to lead this group. Call him if you feel called to this ministry.

ACS – Relay for Life – SAVE THE DATE! We are hoping to see you on May 21, 2022, at Greencastle Antrim High School, located at 300 S. Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA. Relay will start at 10:00 am and additional details will be posted shortly. Don't forget to visit the ACS website to join our team and sign up as a survivor at www.relayforlife.org. Please see Becky Mull for a luminary form or donation. Thank you for your support!

Solomon's Relay for Life Team - Basket Alley: We are looking for donations of Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets to place in our teams Lottery/Flowerpot for the Relay for Life Basket Alley Event to be held during the Relay for Life of Greencastle on Saturday May 21, 2022. Any dollar amount is appreciated. Please give your tickets or cash donations to Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert by Sunday May 8, 2022.

POWER PACK MEALS: School is just about out and there is enough food available to fill the Power Pack Meals for the remainder of the school year. Therefore, we will not be collecting food items until August for the 2022-2023 school year. THANK YOU to everyone who participated this past year. Solomon's members have been very generous.

Christian Education Committee will have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Ukrainian Refugee Fund: Pastor Drahus Oslik, associate Pastor at Evangelical Lutheran in Waynesboro (ELC), is from Slovakia where his family still resides. **Pastor Drahus is requesting our prayers and financial support.** ELC is collecting funds to be directly sent to Pastor Drahuis' home congregation in Slovakia which is assisting the Ukrainian refugees coming across the border. Pastor Drahus has left to bring medical supplies and provide pastoral care at the border for two weeks.

Use this link to donate: https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4G5/home

Donations can also be mailed to: 43 S Church Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Please mark all donations for the Ukrainian Refugee Fund.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE: On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Hundreds of thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. Give through your congregation and make your check out to Solomon's Lutheran Church.

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.

MAY 1, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

In Jesus the Lamb, we praise what the world rejected.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 9:1-20	Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Revelation 5:11-14	Heavenly vision
Wednesday	John 1:29-34	Lamb of God
Thursday	Revelation 4:6b-11	Song of praise to the Creator
Friday	Isaiah 53:1-12	What God's servant did for us
Saturday	Psalm 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" **Revelation 5:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, like the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, give us courage and faith to be sent out to follow you and tell the good news of Jesus and his resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of all things, bless us and strengthen us with this food to go out and shepherd others in love through Christ our Lord, the Lamb who was slain. Alleluia. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lamb who was slain and begins his reign bless you with joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Why is being popular so appealing?
- What influences people to seek riches and power and why do they want it?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Holy, Holy, Holy

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 5:11-14.



The Revelation of John the Seer engages in active resistance to current powers. In John's day, it would have been the Roman Empire that saw itself as godlike and worthy of immortal praise. John upends that view and the powers that are still around us. When we think of words like power, wealth, wisdom, and honor, it is hard not to think in terms of what we see on social media, hear on the radio, and watch on screens. We are regularly given visions of "success" in terms of personal and national victories, not a crucified God. Revelation announces that our only real loyalty is to the cross of Christ and his resurrection. This final New Testament book acknowledges the truth of God's power revealed in Jesus, who is slain like a sacrificed lamb and yet reigns supreme. In this scripture reading we are encouraged to sing and give praise for the eternal blessings, honor, glory, and might of "the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb" (v. 13).

Discuss: Glory and power reside in the Lamb, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In what ways are you reminded of this in your daily life?

Pray: God of glory and might, refresh our memories with vivid sights and sounds of your eternal love for us and for all creation through Christ, the Lamb who was slain. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you pray for God's power and strength to help someone you know?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus appeared to the disciples while they were fishing. The fish has been used as a Christian symbol from the earliest days of the church. The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. In Greek, the letters making up the word form an acrostic for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. Early Christians practiced their faith and worshiped secretly in their homes. A fish painted on the door of a house let Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside. Draw an *ichthus* symbol to display at the entrance to your home as a sign of your faith in Jesus as your Savior.

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