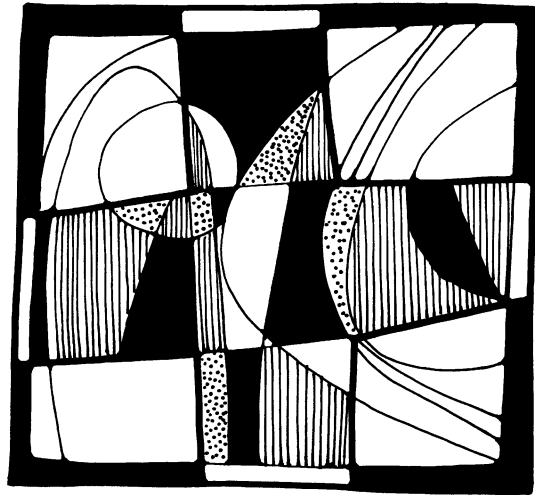


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
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WHOEVER  
DOES NOT  
CARRY THE  
CROSS AND  
FOLLOW ME  
CANNOT BE  
MY DISCIPLE.

L U K E 1 4 : 2 7

*"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."*

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 2022**

**September 4, 2022**  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *Lift High the Cross* (all verses)

### Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
- 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
- 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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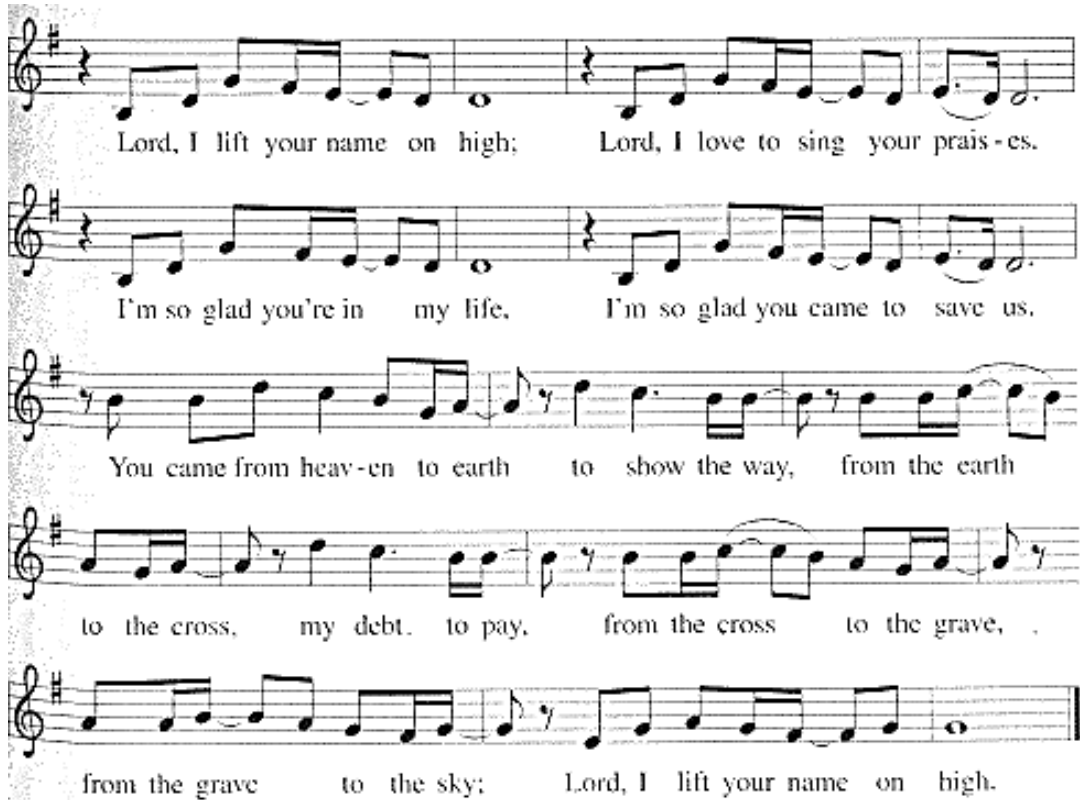
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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.

I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth

to the cross, my debt. to pay, from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME  
P M

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do

not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 1**

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

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>1</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves  
that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>1</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>1</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

### **SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

A reading from Philemon.

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. <sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in

Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them,

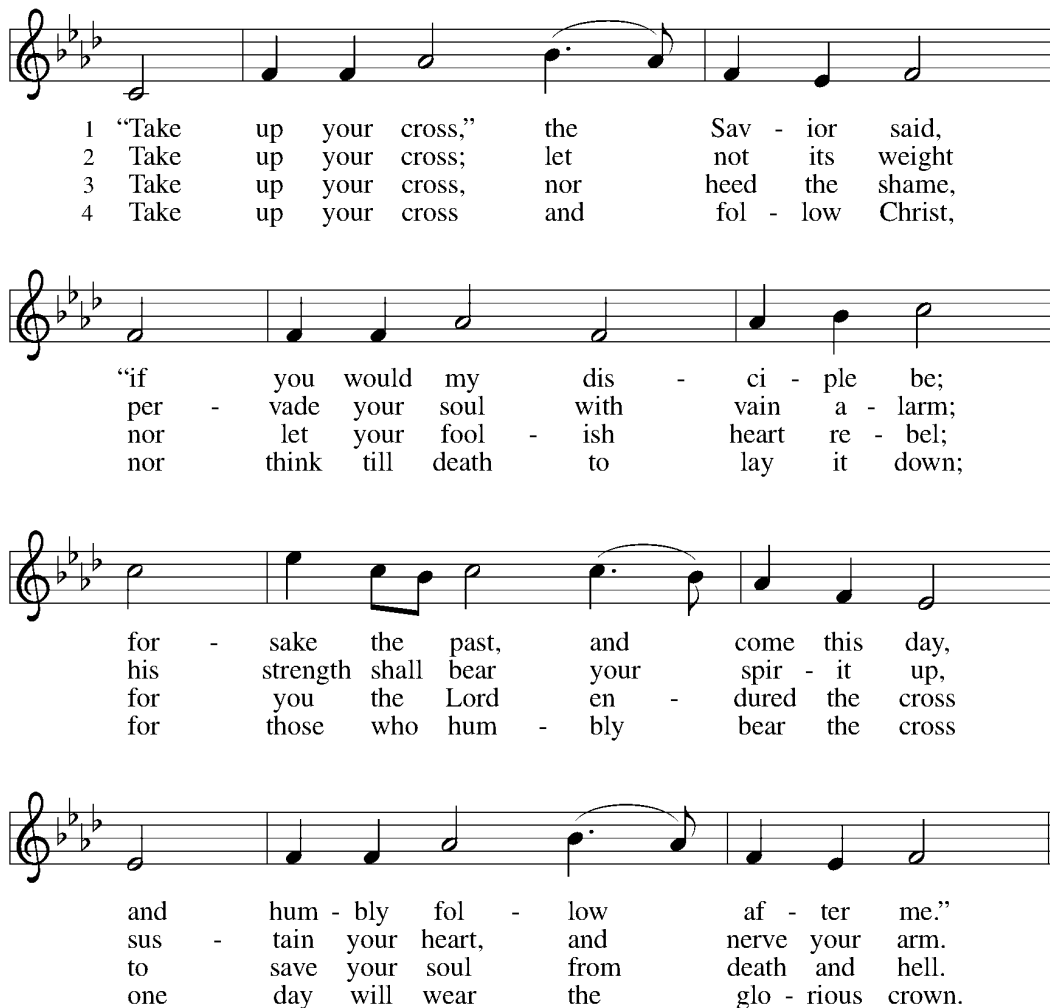
<sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the

cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

## SERMON                      PASTOR BARB

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said (BOURBON)* (all verses) Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



1 “Take up your cross,” the Sav - ior said,  
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

“if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.”  
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
 to save your soul from death and hell.  
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: God of Grace, C: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

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



## OFFERATORY

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm<sup>2</sup> Gm C

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm/F E<sup>b</sup>M<sup>9</sup> E<sup>b</sup> C<sup>sus</sup><sub>2</sub> C

Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. glo - ry.

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm<sup>2</sup> Gm C

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm/F Gm F/A B<sup>b</sup> F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

For - ev - er - more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:  
 you have set before us a plentiful harvest.  
 As we feast on your goodness,  
 strengthen us to labor in your field,  
 and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,  
 in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, 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**

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.  
Come to the banquet.

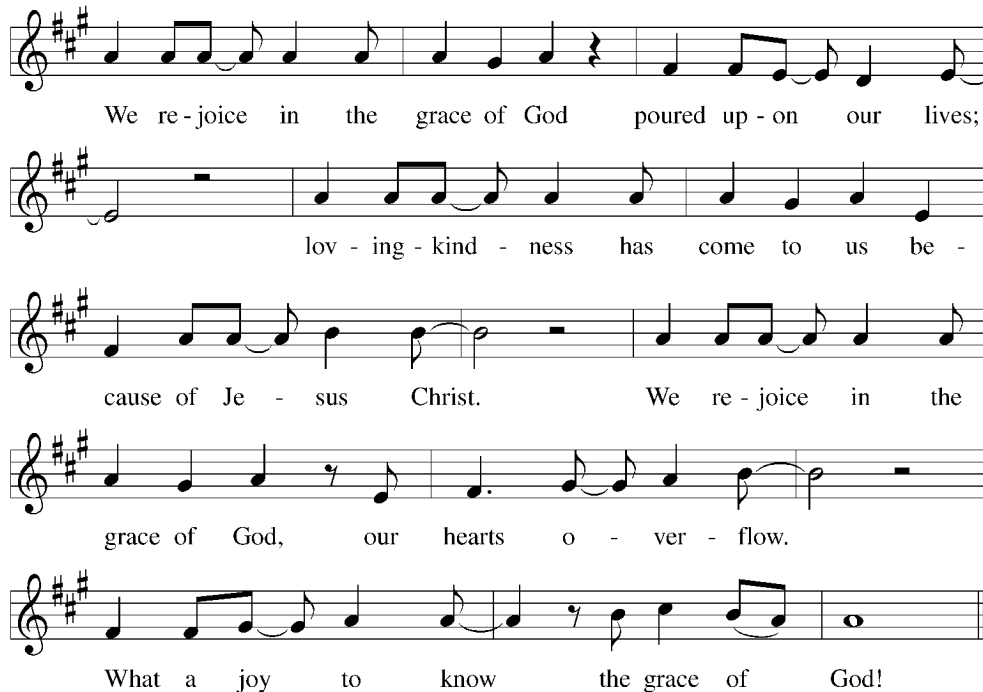
## **COMMUNION**

*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



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 AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,  
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds  
and fed us with your mercy.  
Now send us forth to live for others,  
both friend and stranger,  
that all may come to know your love.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus.  
**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 *Faith Begins By Letting Go* (all verses)

### Faith Begins By Letting Go



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

## FROM SUNDAYS AND SEASON

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## SERVING TODAY

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Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Phil Johnson
Acolyte .....	Sarah Aldrich
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering.....	Doug Mummert & Wayne Norman
Communion Set-Up.....	Sam & Becky Mull
Communion Clean-Up .....	Judy Johnson & Patricia Yetter
Bread Cubes .....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist .....	Lilly Chiado
Attendance last Sunday .....	39

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of the “Garvin twins”, my mother, Hazel McKenzie and my Aunt Edna Biesecker given by Wayne and Marjorie Dale.

**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!

**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.

**Prayer requests for the following** *Family & friends of Dirk Gilbert, Leroy Locke, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Betty Sterner, Jenny Barnes, Aurora Shultz and her parents David and Brittany, Ray Rotz, Dirk Gilbert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Kristen Hardman, Patricia Yetter, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Darrell Veilleux.* 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.

**Sunday, September 11 Students, Teachers, Administrators and Volunteers** are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases and or tote bags for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded by prayer and a reminder that God is with you in every situation and circumstance.

**Apple Butter and Candy Order forms are here!** Candy making – mark your calendars **Thursday 11/3/22 & Friday 11/4/22**. We will be making candy on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Keep Friday, November 4 open as an extra day of candy making if needed. Apple Butter & Candy Order Forms are in the newsletter or see Zoe Mummert for a copy. Apple Butter Order Forms will need to be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 9. **Candy Order Forms will need to be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 23.** We will **set up on Wednesday evening, November 2 at 6:30 pm**. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Sunday School Room. Candy can be picked up Saturday, Nov. 5 10-12, and Sunday Nov. 6 after church.

**Apple Butter Orders:** Order forms need to be turned in October 9 and can be picked up with candy orders on Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 10-12 or Sunday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> after church.

**Help is needed to serve a Quincy High School Reunion** on Saturday, September 10 at noon. Please see sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room.

**Relay for Life** – With your help we raised a total of \$343.00 for our team. What a great kick off to our 2023 Relay event! The mums will be available for pick up at the Church on September 25, 2022. Thank you for your continued support.

**You're invited: Fall Picnic/Campfire – Saturday, Sept. 24 at 6:00 pm.** Christian Ed is hosting a Fall Picnic/Campfire in the Picnic Woods. Food will be provided: hot dogs, baked beans, mac & cheese, chips, s'mores, water & lemonade. Hot dogs and s'mores will be roasted over the campfire. Bring your chairs for a night of fellowship. Sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Sunday School room until after church on Sunday, Sept. 18.

**Upper Room & The Daily Bread Devotionals:** Both devotionals will be available in the narthex starting in September. The Daily Bread has been available for anyone over the past years. We are buying a few of the Upper Room Devotionals to see if there is an interest in them. Upper Room is two-month booklets & The Daily Bread is three-month booklets. Christian Ed has been giving them to the shut-ins over the past year.

**Rally Day – Sunday, September 11 – Breakfast at 9:00 am.** Carissa Martin from Monarch's Way, Chambersburg will be speaking. Menu: sausage egg casserole, bacon egg casserole, bacon, mixed fruit, sticky buns, coffee, tea, milk, and orange juice.

**Choir Practice** will begin Thursday, September 8 at 7:00PM.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin Sunday, September 28 at 9AM** in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Building. If you know anyone of Confirmation age who needs to participate, please ask the family to call Pastor Barb at the church office. We want to have enough materials and supplies.

**Solomon's is invited to a Seminar** exploring Sexism and Gender Bias: *Giving Life and Value to All: Moving Toward Gender Justice*. The seminar will be held at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2695 Luther Drive both in person and by Zoom. Friday Evening, September 30, 2022, 6:30 - 9:00 pm and Saturday Morning, October 1, 2022, 9:00 am – Noon (Continental Breakfast 8:30). Registration Required by Sept. 20. To register or ask questions about seminar contact micah6.8chbg@gmail.com or call St. Luke Office at 717-261-1213 during office hours Tu, Wed, Th, 9 am - noon.

**Many thanks to Edna Harris for all the time and energy she gave to fulfill her duties as treasurer for the past two years.** Edna will be stepping down from treasurer at the end of the year. Prayerfully consider if you feel called to serve in this ministry.

**Power Pack Meals:** The power pack program has resumed for the 2022-2023 school year. Please place the items you donate in the gray tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are also accepted, write your check to Solomon's, and put Power Pack in the memo line.

**Social Ministry:** Social Ministry will be collecting items through August for Personal Care Kits as we have done in past years. Items needed are: One light-weight dark color bath size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"); Two - three bath size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand in original wrapping; One adult size toothbrush in original packaging; One sturdy comb; One metal nail clippers attached file optional. We are not asking that you donate an entire kit, just the items you feel you can give. Please place the items in the gray tote under the coat rack. The kits will be assembled during **God's Work Our Hands** on Rally Day Sunday in September.

**Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants** for the rest of the year will be on the side table in the Sunday School room. 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.

**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 4, 2022**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Love for all the saints.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 14:25-33</b>	<b>The cost of being a disciple</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</b>	<b>Choose life, not death</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Philemon 1:1-21</b>	<b>Philemon's love and faith</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 82:1-5</b>	<b>A plea for justice</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 15:12-17</b>	<b>Jesus the true vine</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Philippians 2:1-11</b>	<b>Imitating Christ's humility</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 1</b>	<b>The way to happiness</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 15:1-10</b>	<b>The lost sheep and the lost coin</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. **Philemon 1:4-5 (NRSV)***

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, help us to treat all people with respect and honor that together we may bring healing to the church and to society, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks for this, our food. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God watch over you and give you peace and courage.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- What words would you use to describe your family?
- Who do you consider to be your brother/sister in Christ and why?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Behold, What Manner of Love*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Philemon 1:1-21.

This letter truly focuses on the power of the law of love. Paul gives us the founding principle to free the lives of others. Onesimus was a runaway slave who was imprisoned with Paul. Philemon was his master. Philemon had the legal right to have Onesimus killed as his runaway slave. However, Paul is requesting Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother, just as Paul has treated Onesimus as a son. He uses language of being part of the same family. Paul wants a brother in Christ to treat a slave not as property but as a saint, that is, a fellow believer in Christ. Paul could have demanded this of Philemon, but the law of love makes Paul's approach one of free consent, not domination. With Philemon free to make the call, Onesimus can be freed to be a brother, a fellow heir with Paul and Philemon. Through the gospel of Christ, the law of love heals broken relationships in church and society.

*Discuss:* How can caring for one another in the body of Christ bring freedom and fairness to all people?

*Pray:* **Loving God, free us to care for others as you care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's law of love to someone?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said, *"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple"* (Luke 14:27). This isn't easy. It means that we sometimes have to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. Think or talk about what this means for you. Make a small cross out of pipe cleaners or wire and carry it in your pocket this week as a reminder of Jesus' words. **Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, free me of all that keeps me from following you. Amen.**