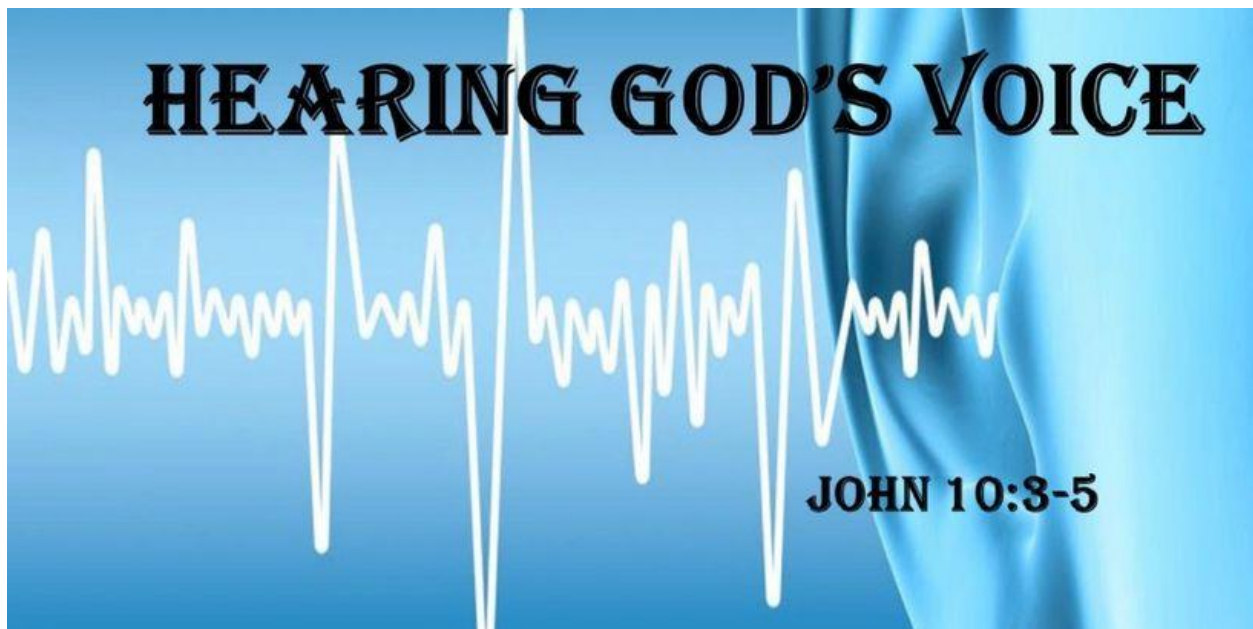


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 30, 2023**

**April 30, 2023**  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.*

**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,

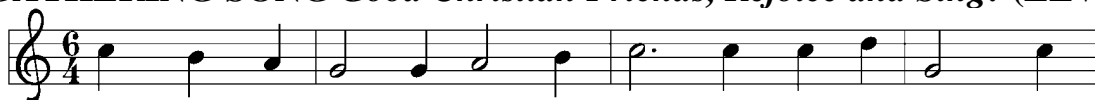
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (ELW 385)



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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 (ELW p. 139)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

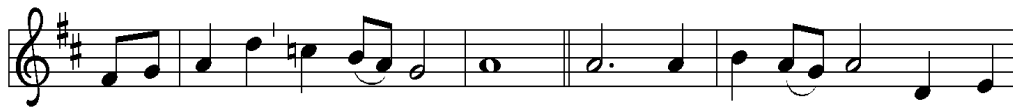


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



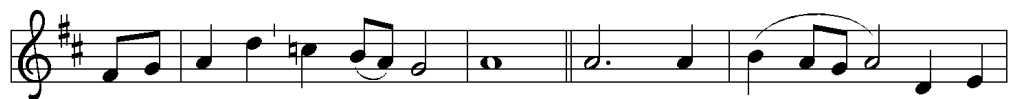
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**SOLO AUDREY SHENBERGER**

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from Acts.

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 23

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector.)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Celtic Alleluia* (ELW 174)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

**SERMON            PASTOR BARB**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW 502)**



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.



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: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

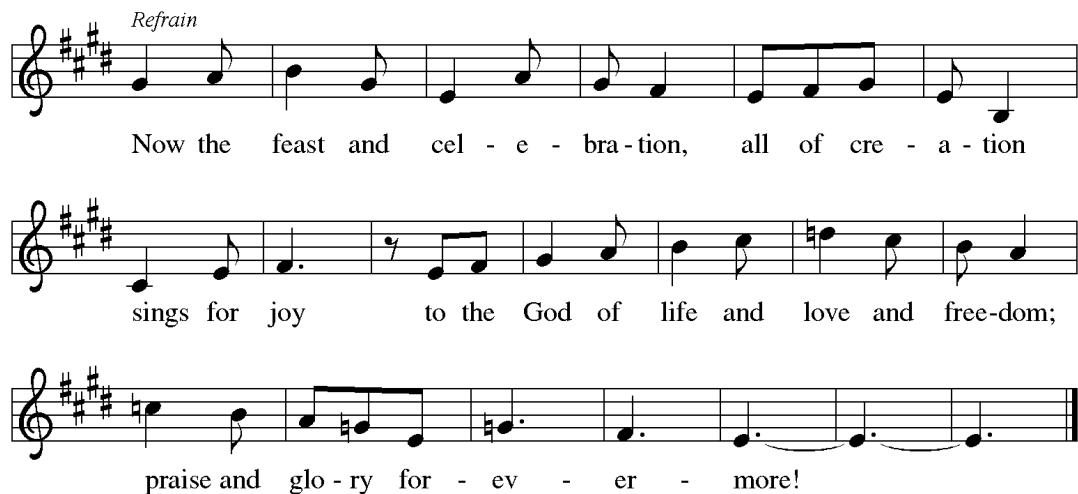
## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERATORY *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;  
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

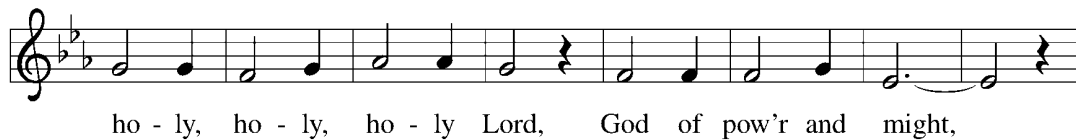
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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 *Holy, Holy, Holy (Schubert) (ELW 190a)*



## **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**

Come and know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. 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 SONG *We Remember You* (W&P 152)

In bro - ken bread and the cup that we share, we re -  
mem - ber you. In bro - ken bread and the  
cup that we share, we re - mem - ber you.  
We re - mem - ber you, Je - sus. We re -  
mem - ber your love for us. We re - mem - ber the  
blood you shed. We re - mem - ber you.

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## HYMN DURING COMMUNION *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* (ELW 782)



1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.  
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;



In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.  
no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23  
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (Young)* (ELW 206)



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world 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 *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* (ELW 544)



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.  
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.  
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## SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address .....	<u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Pianist .....	Heidi Shenberger
Head Usher .....	Paul Kostreski
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering .....	Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up .....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Bread .....	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist .....	Lilly Chiado & Peggi Norman
Attendance last Sunday.....	56

## 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!

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Janice McEntire, Kathy Largent, Cody Banks, Tana Vance and Deanna Vance, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Terry Fell, Callie Mummert, Bernie Harris, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Phyllis Brehm, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: 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.**

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

### **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

- May 3 - Psalms Study 10AM  
W&M 7PM
- May 4 - Choir 7PM
- May 7 - Coffee Hour Fellowship after worship  
Adult SS Class 9AM

**Relay for Life - Donations needed for Basket Alley.** We are putting together 3 different baskets for the silent auction on May 19, 2023. We are looking for Scratch Off Lottery Tickets of any denomination and Money donations to buy items for our baskets. Please give donations to either Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert. We appreciate your support.

**Qigong/Tai Chi** Class will be starting **May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesdays at 6:00pm** at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. If you can walk independently, you will survive the class. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.

**Understanding the book of Genesis** - Richard Graven will teach Adult Sunday School, 9AM before Worship on Sunday, beginning May 7. He will teach the class every other week through the summer due to his unavailability after October.

**Power Pack Meals and donations will be collected until the end of May for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.** THANK YOU to everyone who participated this past school year. Solomon's members have been very generous.

**Tuesday, May 2, Solomon's is hosting a community training for suicide prevention at both 10am and 7pm.** The classes will be facilitated by Alexandra Shatzer through the Mental Health Association of Franklin and Fulton Counties. The QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training will last one and a half hours. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Several people in our own faith family have been affected by suicide and the rate in our community increases. We can be of help.

**Sunday School is in Session** - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

**2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted** in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are 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.

**APRIL 30, 2023**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



*Jesus the Good Shepherd restores our souls.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 10:1-10</b>	<b>Christ the shepherd</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 2:42-47</b>	<b>Life among believers</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:19-25</b>	<b>Example of Christ's suffering</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 11:28-30</b>	<b>Come and rest</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 100</b>	<b>The Lord is good</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Colossians 3:15-17</b>	<b>New life in Christ</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 23</b>	<b>The Lord is my shepherd</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:1-14</b>	<b>Jesus is the way, truth, and life</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. **Psalm 23:1-3a (NRSV)***

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, you who care for all our needs, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food. Help us to receive this gift of life with joy and gladness all our days through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the goodness and mercy of the Good Shepherd follow you all the days of your life.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- Describe what a day filled with contentment looks like.
- How does the church, the body of Christ, help you sense God's presence as your shepherd?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Shepherd Me, O God*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read: Acts 2:42-47.*

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always the Good Shepherd Sunday. All the readings for that day except Acts 2 use the image of shepherd. However, it is in Acts 2 that the people devote themselves to shepherding one another in the Christian faith. People are brought to homes and tables for food, fellowship, and acceptance (Psalm 23:5). In this intimate fellowship people are taught the faith by hearing the message of the apostles. People learn the faith from trusted voices within the community (John 10:4). They support one another with prayer and generosity. The community serves one another by providing material needs like food, clothing, and shelter. With compassionate hearts people praise God. They gain attention and in so doing, the sheepfold grows, and *“the Lord added to their number those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:47). The life of the community looks like followers of Jesus, the one who is the *“shepherd and guardian”* of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).

*Discuss:* How does the image of shepherd help you understand what it means to be part of the body of Christ?

*Pray:* **Dear Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we thank you for the church, the body of Christ, that cares for one another that we may believe in you and serve others in love. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you serve as a shepherd to someone by showing care and attending to their needs?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Learning the faith begins in the home. As you continue to read the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what would happen if you “get caught” while reading the Bible when others are present. Consider doing so. This week highlight John 10:10b, *“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”* Read it aloud for someone this week and engage in a conversation about what it means to you to believe in Jesus. Invite that person to join you in saying: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**