

**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."*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 7, 2023**

**May 7, 2023**  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

**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 *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!* (ELW 380)



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?  
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.  
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,  
Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,  
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.  
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.  
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.  
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.  
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

## GREETING

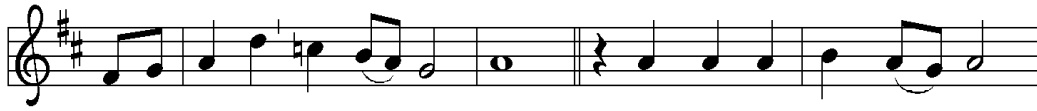
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# 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.

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

***SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD***

## FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

(Sung responsively between women and men, beginning with the women.)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be <sup>1</sup> put to shame;  
deliver me <sup>1</sup> in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your <sup>1</sup> ear to me;  
make haste to de- <sup>1</sup> liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag <sup>1</sup> and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead <sup>1</sup> me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly <sup>1</sup> set for me,  
for you are my tow- <sup>1</sup> er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- <sup>1</sup> mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, <sup>1</sup> God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are <sup>1</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who <sup>1</sup> persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- <sup>1</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.”

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and “A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Gospel Acclamation (Celtic): 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 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BARB**



## HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* (ELW 816)



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a  
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a  
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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

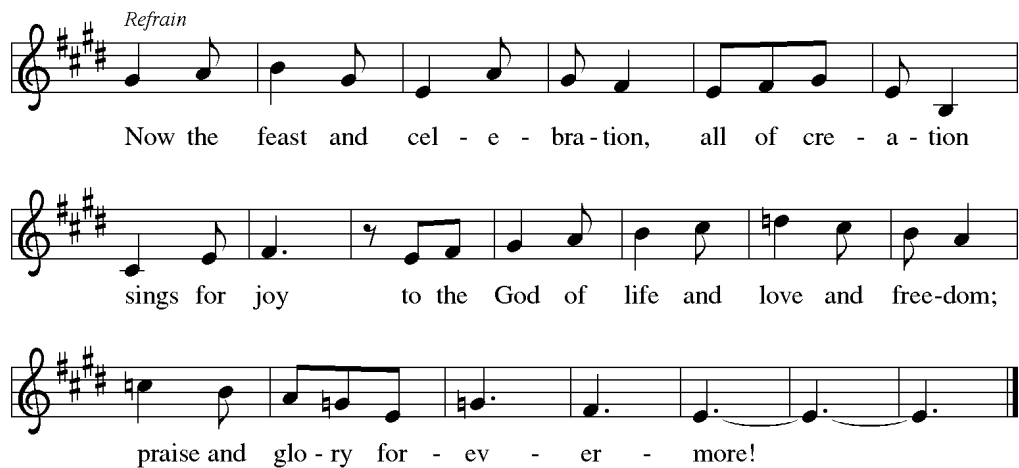
### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY *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.**

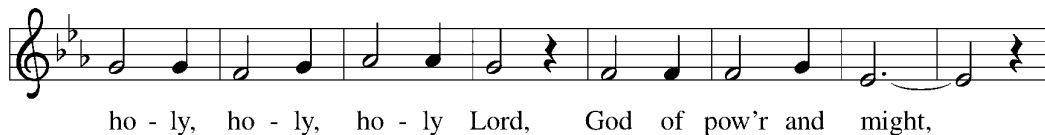
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

*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 *You Are the Way* (ELW 758)



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

## HOMEBOUND TEAM BLESSING

### 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 *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

## 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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Organist ..... Doug Mummert  
Head Usher ..... Frances Reichard  
Acolyte ..... Sam Mull  
Lector ..... Kathy Bowen  
Securing Offering ..... Marjorie Dale & Phil Johnson  
Communion Set-Up ..... Ilona & Jerry Laney  
Communion Clean-Up ..... Kathy Bowen & Janice McEntire  
Communion Bread ..... Zoe Mummert  
Communion Assist ..... Marjorie Dale & Ilona Laney  
Coffee Station ..... Marjorie Dale & Tana Vance  
Attendance last Sunday ..... 43

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Jim Bowen given by Kathy, Matthew, Lexie, & Brooke Bowen.

**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 7 - Coffee Hour Fellowship after worship  
Adult SS Class 9AM  
May 8 - Council 7PM  
May 9 - Christian Ed 7PM  
May 10 - Psalms Study 10AM  
Qigong/Tai Chi Class 6PM

**VBS - STELLAR "SHINE JESUS' LIGHT": June 19-23, 2023; 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.** Ages: 3yrs – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. **Celebration Sunday: June 25th at 10:15 in the Fellowship Center.** Registration & Photo Agreement Forms in your May & June Newsletters or see Barbara Aldrich or Zoe Mummert.

**The May/June edition of the Living Lutheran** is available in the pamphlet rack in the Narthex.

**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.

**Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants** for July – December 2023 are on the bulletin board 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.

**Qigong/Tai Chi Class** - 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.

**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.

**MAY 7, 2023**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Learning who God is through Jesus.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:1-14</b>	<b>Jesus is the way, truth, and life</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 7:55-60</b>	<b>The stoning of Stephen</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:2-10</b>	<b>God's love in Christ Jesus</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Colossians 1:15-23</b>	<b>The supremacy of Christ</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:15-23</b>	<b>Paul's prayer</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 3:16-21</b>	<b>God so loved the world</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16</b>	<b>Prayer for deliverance</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:15-21</b>	<b>The promise of the Holy Spirit</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"* **John 14:9 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, help us to see your reign of power and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, with this food we see your goodness. We thank you that you have made of us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people. Amen. (1 Peter 2:3 and 9)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's face shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- How would you describe God to someone?
- Where does your understanding of God come from?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Received the Living God*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 14:1-14.

John 1:18 states, *“No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.”* This foundational theme in the Gospel of John is reintroduced in John 14:9: *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”* Society describes God in categories like all powerful and all wise. In Jesus we see a God who deeply wants a relationship with us and therefore Jesus has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us. In Jesus we see the God who brings joy to a wedding, heals the sick, and gives sight to the blind. We also see the one who is the Good Shepherd, bends over to clean dirty feet, and goes to the cross to die for us. Like Philip, we will never fully grasp who Jesus is for us, but in Jesus we see the God who never gives up on us, even when we deny our Lord out of ignorance or fear. Jesus is *“the way, and the truth, and the life”* (v. 6). He takes truth to be more than facts but a relationship to God filled with love and mercy. That’s the path to real life now and always.

*Discuss:* What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, may our lives point to your way, your truth and your life filled with grace and mercy through Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may know the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as *“a living stone”* and Jesus’ followers *“like living stones”* to be *“built into a spiritual house.”* Gather some smooth stones. Paint a cross on a large one and names of family and friends on smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the large one in a visible place in your home. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what it means to be a *“spiritual house”* where God dwells. After reading, look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**