SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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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."

> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 14, 2023

May 14, 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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.**





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM BIND US TOGETHER

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

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



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⁸Bless our [|] God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

- ⁹Our God has kept us a-¹ mong the living and has not allowed our ¹ feet to slip.
- ¹⁰For you, O God, have [|] tested us;

you have tried us just as sil-¹ ver is tried.

¹¹You brought us in-¹ to the net; you laid heavy burdens up-¹ on our backs. ¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through [|] fire and water, but you brought us out into a place [|] of refreshment.

¹³I will enter your house | with burnt offerings and will pay | you my vows— ¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble. ¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the ¹ smoke of rams; I will give you ox-¹ en and goats. ¹⁶Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe, and I will tell you what God has | done for me. ¹⁷I called out to God | with my mouth, and praised the Lord | with my tongue. ¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart, the Lord would | not have heard me; ¹⁹but in truth | God has heard me and has attended to the sound | of my prayer. ²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject-¹ ed my prayer, nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Celtic Alleluia (ELW 174)



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

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GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

PASTOR BARB SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Come Down, O Love Divine (ELW 804) seek thou this 1 Come down, O Love di of mine vine; soul 2 free - ly Oh, let it burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn 3 Let ho - ly char - i _ ty mine out-ward ves - ture be, $\mathbf{4}$ And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long, and with thine own vis - it dor glow ing; it ar dust and to ash - es its heat con sum ing; in low - li - ness be come mine and in ner cloth inging; shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell 0 0 Com-fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap pear light and let thy glo rious shine ev - er my sight, on part, true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum bler soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place no and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame ing. be stow and clothe me round, the while my path il lum ing. and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath ing. where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes dwell ing. а

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890

Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Music from *The English Hymnal*, outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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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.

OFFERATORY Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)



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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.



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Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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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)



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Bread of Life, Jeremy Young, b. 1948 Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 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

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry
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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Frances Reichard
Acolyte	
Lector	Patricia Yetter
Securing Offering	Marjorie Dale & Phil Johnson
Communion Set-Up	-
Communion Clean-Up	
Communion Bread	-
Communion Assist	Marjorie Dale & Ilona Laney
Attendance last Sunday	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Donald A. Wishard given by Rose and family.

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 & friends of Jerry Bitner, 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, 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.**

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

May 16 - Social Ministry 7PM May 17 - Psalms Study 10AM Qigong/Tai Chi Class 6PM May 21 - Adult SS Class 9AM **Office Hours for Pastor Barb** are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Richard Graven is teaching Adult Bible School every other Sunday. Study material is taken from the book, "Navigating Genesis" by Hugh Ross. The dates for the class are: May 7, 21, June 18 (June 4 is outdoor worship, there will be no class.) July 2, 16, 30, August 13, 27.

Dear Church Family, I would like to express my thank you for the thoughts, prayers, calls, cards, and visits. You don't realize what it means to have a loving church family to show you the love of Christ. It meant so much to me and I know Jesus was with me all the way. When I went to the emergency room I didn't know if I would be there for the next day. Thank you, Pastor Barb for your phone calls and visits. You all are an inspiration of the Good News to me. In Christian Love, Janice McEntire

VBS - STELLAR "SHINE JESUS' LIGHT": June 19-23, 2023; 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Ages: 3yrs – 6th 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.

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.

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.

MAY 14, 2023 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Doing good through gentleness and reverence.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21
Monday	Acts 17:22-31
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11
Saturday	Psalm 66:8-20
Sunday	John 17:1-11

The promise of the Holy Spirit Paul in Athens Suffering for doing right Fruit of the Spirit Jesus is taken up to heaven Imitating Christ's humility Shout praises to God Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. **1 Peter 3:15b-16a** (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to see the path to life and salvation in Christ's suffering and death and to see your chosen way to heal and make all things new. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food that we eat and your love that we receive, give us strength to care for others with gentleness and deep respect. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of truth guide you into all things wise and loving.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What action do you take when you are angry at or disagree with someone?
- How do you think Jesus would respond if he had a strong difference of opinion with someone?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Thy Holy Wings



DEVOTIONS *Read:* 1 Peter 3:13-22.

Suffering happens. Life is sometimes painful. Followers of Jesus Christ can suffer "for doing what is right" (v. 14). Unfortunately, there are those who claim to follow Jesus and think that inflicting suffering is being a hero for "the truth." That's not the case for biblical truth and the way of Christ Jesus who "suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous" (v. 18). In being faithful to Christ and Christ's way of life, we are to be bold (a hero, one might say) and give "an accounting for the hope that is in you" (v. 15). However, this description that gives a defense of what a Christian may think and believe is not to be done with anger, threats, unkind acts, or any act of violence. A courageous disciple makes their defense "with gentleness and reverence" (v. 16). Christ's reign, unlike the powers of the present age, is built upon the power of self-giving love and service to others. It's the way of Jesus Christ, and it's the freeing power of the followers of Jesus Christ.

Discuss: How can being gentle and reverent show more courage than an act of violence? *Pray:* Almighty God, help us to see in Jesus Christ not only the way of salvation but the way of life that witnesses to Christ with gentleness and reverence. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to and serve alongside others who think differently than you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships — often in our own homes. In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, highlight this reading. Then take time to write a list of people with whom you have a personal, trusted relationship.

Pray: Lord Jesus, send the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may grow in my faith and form life-giving relationships. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia! Amen.

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