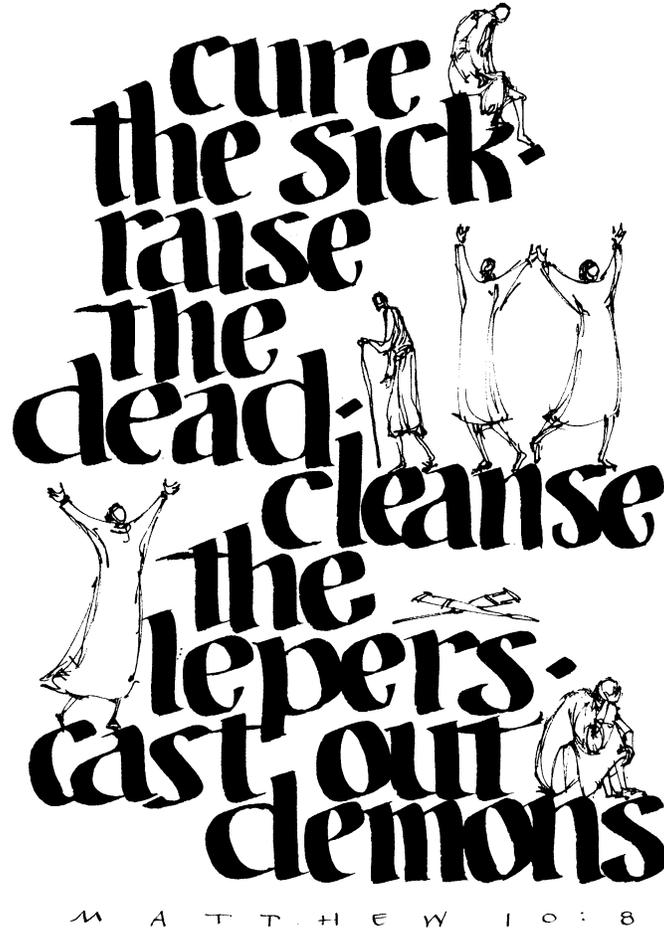


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve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

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**June 18, 2023**

**June 18, 2023**  
Third Sunday after Pentecost

*Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.  
**Amen.**

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

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have hurt our community.**  
**We have squandered your blessings.**  
**We have hoarded your bounty.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Righteous God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have failed to be honest.**  
**We have lacked the courage to speak.**  
**We have spoken falsely.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of ✙ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (ELW 883)



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times  
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## 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 *Shout to the Lord* (ELW 821)



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965  
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech  
Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP),  
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## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

A reading from Romans.

*We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.*

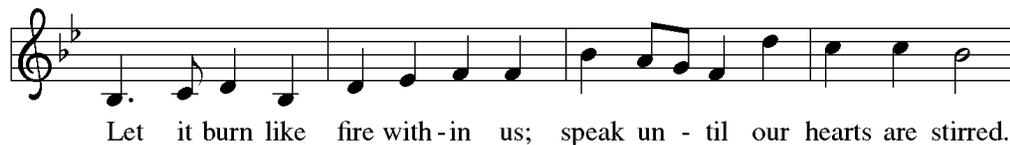
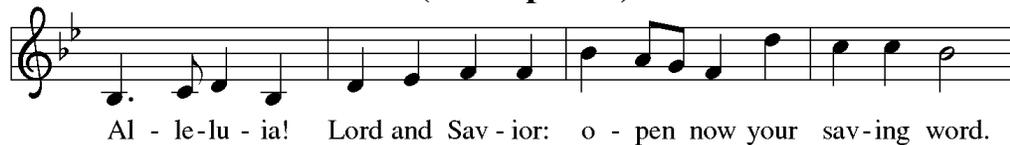
<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BARB**

# HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (ELW 579)



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

*Refrain*



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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

## **CREED**

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

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

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

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

*P: God, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

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

## OFFERATORY *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* (ELW 691)



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957  
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune  
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.  
You reveal your glory  
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,  
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.  
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 (ELW p. 207)



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

All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

## 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. 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 SONG (ELW p. 208)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911  
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* (ELW 538)

*En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta\_es - tá*  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

*pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.*  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

*Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar*  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

*un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;*  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

*me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.*  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

*A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a\_ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.*  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

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

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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 *O Zion, Haste* (ELW 668)



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion  
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion  
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.  
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

*Refrain*



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp-tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

## SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**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 .....	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte .....	Sam Mull
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering .....	Becky Mull & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up .....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Bread .....	Becky Mull
Communion Assist .....	Peggi Norman
Attendance last Sunday.....	57

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God for Rebekah Aldrich given by your loving family. Congratulations on graduating high school. Wishing you all the best with your future.

**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:** *The family & friends of Dwight McDonald, Chris Reichard, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Billy Autry, David Gettle, 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.*

**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:**

June 18 - Adult SS Class 9:00am

June 19-23 - VBS 6:30pm

June 21 - Psalms Study 10:00am

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg auxiliary is continuing their membership drive throughout the summer.** You may join for \$1.00. Information is in the file at the end of the mailbox or see Becky Pecha. Benefits programs at the village at Luther Ridge. We thank you for your support.

**Special Collection: VBS Celebration Sunday June 25, 2023** – In addition to the regular Sunday offering plate, we will have a special container for donations at the gym entrance. All donations will go to the New Franklin School Power Pack Meal Program.

**Music @ the Ridge** - The summer concert series at SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge will begin on **Wednesday, May 31** with a concert featuring **Tina Marie** who will perform a variety of country, 50's, and patriotic music. **Silver 63 Band** will perform on **Wednesday, June 21**. **The Flying Matlocks** will close out the concert series on **Wednesday, July 19**. Music begins at 6:00pm. The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary will be hosting a food stand starting at 5:00pm. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy! In case of inclement weather, the concert will move inside.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**JUNE 18, 2023**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Sent out to do the work of Jesus.*



### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 9:35–10:23</b>	<b>The sending of the twelve</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Exodus 19:2-8a</b>	<b>Israelites go to Mt. Sinai</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 5:1-8</b>	<b>How to be acceptable to God</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Galatians 5:22–6:5</b>	<b>Bear one another’s burdens</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 15:7-11</b>	<b>How to treat the poor</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 13:1-8</b>	<b>Service well-pleasing to God</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 100</b>	<b>The Lord is good</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 10:24-39</b>	<b>The call and cost of discipleship</b>

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

*“As you [the twelve apostles] go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”* **Matthew 10:7-8a (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

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

Almighty God, you have promised to do great things through us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do your will through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we are the sheep of your pasture; we thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 100)

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

May the love of God be poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- What do you do to help others, and what gets in the way of helping others?
- How is the care you offer to others doing the work of Jesus?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 9:35–10:8.

Jesus asks his disciples (described here as “apostles,” that is, those sent) to go out and do what he does. They are to go out and announce the good news of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, to heal sick people, raise the dead, and cast out demons. This is also the work that Jesus did (Matthew 4:17, 23-24). Casting out demons meant freeing people from all powers that prevented them from living full lives as those created by God. What Jesus did, we will do. However, there is no mistaking our own brokenness. Peter will deny Jesus three times, Judas Iscariot will betray him, Matthew the tax collector collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon the Cananaean was a “zealot” who worked against the Romans. The fact is that this motley crew is not so different from the church of any age and yet capable of doing Jesus’ work by the power of the kingdom of heaven that has also come near to us.

*Discuss:* When have you been surprised by the healing power given to you to bless other lives?

*Pray:* **Healing God, give us courage to face the challenges of daily life with love and hope that reaches out to others with the kingdom that has come near to us through Jesus Christ. 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 to give them hope in their daily lives?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father’s Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. This day is set aside to honor fathers and provide an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**