

**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."*

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**July 30, 2023**

**July 30, 2023**  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

**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 *Gather Us In* (ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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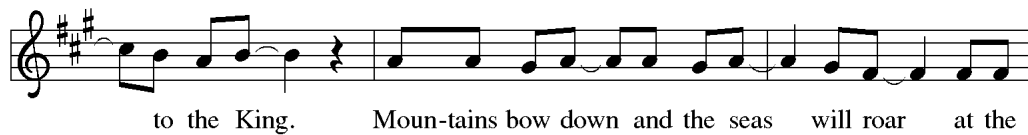
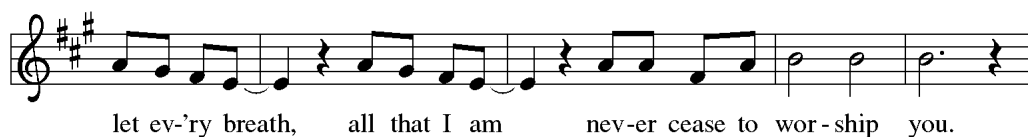
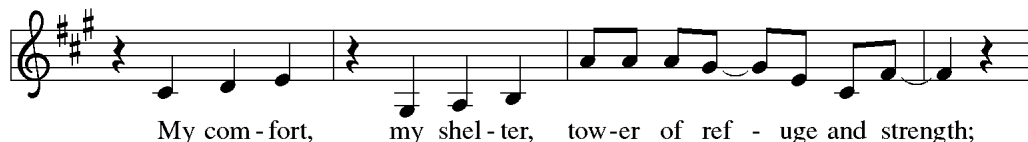
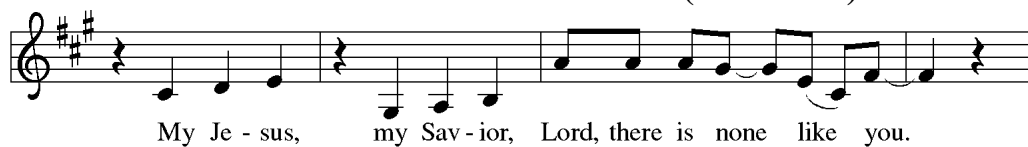
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## GREETING

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

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Shout to the Lord* (ELW 821)



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



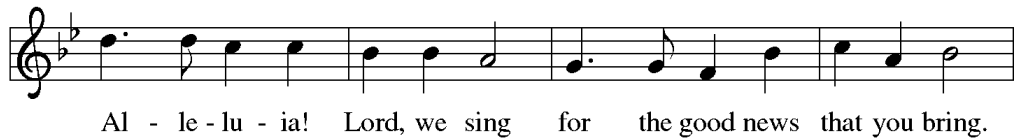
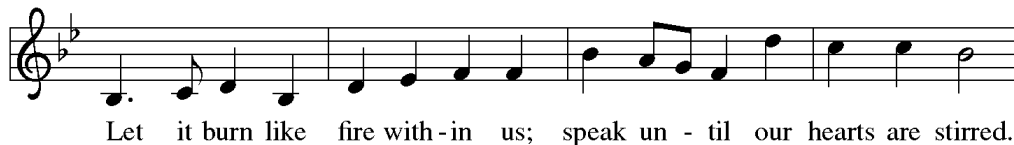
justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



### GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people’s lives.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

## SERMON PASTOR BARB

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



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 *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)



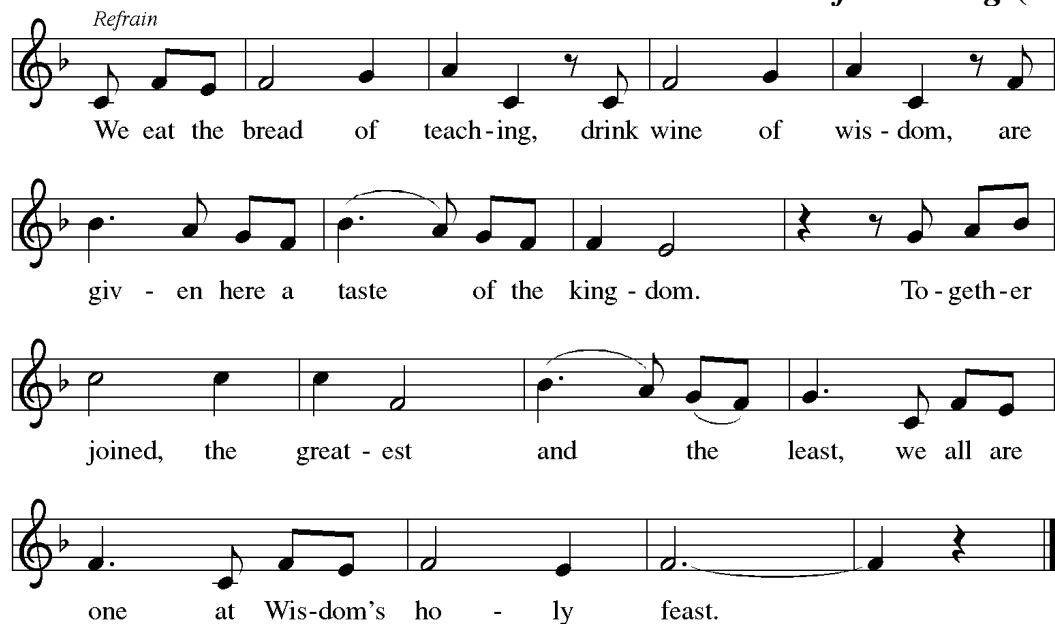
- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



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.

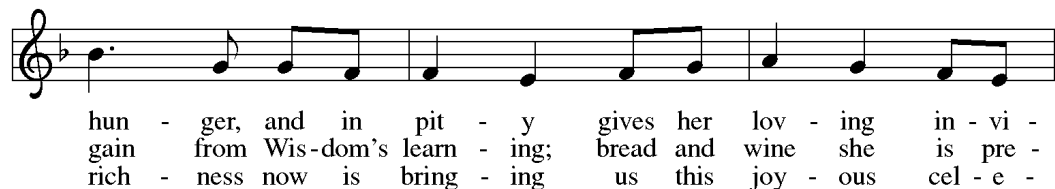
## HYMN DURING COMMUNION *We Eat the Bread of Teaching* (ELW 518)

*Refrain*

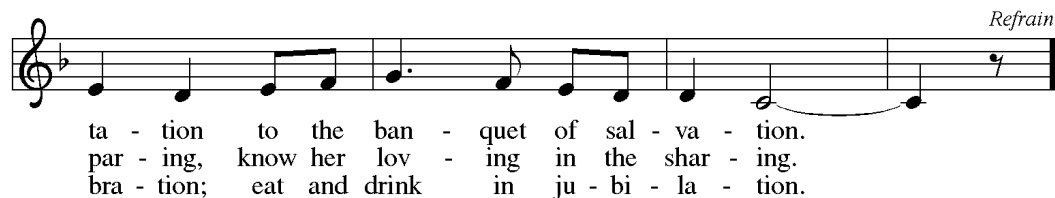


We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are  
giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er  
joined, the great-est and the least, we all are  
one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.

- 1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
- 2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
- 3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-  
gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-  
rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-



*Refrain*  
ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.  
par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.  
bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

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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 *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 *In Thee Is Gladness* (ELW 867)



1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my  
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the  
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou  
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly  
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,  
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

## 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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Church Office Email Address ..... [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org)  
Organist ..... Doug Mummert  
Head Usher ..... Kathy Bowen  
Acolyte ..... Janice McEntire  
Lector ..... Martie Veilleux  
Securing Offering ..... Janice McEntire & Don Wildeson  
Communion Set-Up ..... Ilona & Jerry Laney  
Communion Clean-Up ..... Ilona & Jerry Laney  
Communion Bread ..... Kathy Bowen  
Communion Assist ..... Martie Veilleux & Peggi Norman  
Attendance last Sunday ..... 45

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God given by Mr. & Mr. Darrell Veilleux.

**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:** *Gerald Wildeson, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, 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:**

July 30 - Adult SS Class 9AM

August 1 - W&M 7PM

2 - Psalms Study 10AM

**Solomon's United Church of Christ Weekends of Wonder: Children's Church –** Second Saturday of every month 9:30 a.m. – Noon at 1594 Swamp Fox Rd., Chambersburg PA. For more info and to register visit [www.mysolomonsucc.org/weekends-of-wonder](http://www.mysolomonsucc.org/weekends-of-wonder).

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg auxiliary has discount cards available for \$5.00.** Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2024. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, or Frances Reichard if you'd like to have a card.

**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.

**Richard Graven is teaching Adult Bible School every other Sunday.** Study material is taken from the book, "Navigating Genesis" by Hugh Ross. The remaining dates for the class are July 30, August 13, 27.

**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.

**JULY 30, 2023**  
**NINTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**



*Solomon's prayer for justice and understanding.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</b>	<b>Parables of the kingdom</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1 Kings 3:5-12</b>	<b>Solomon's prayer for wisdom</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:26-39</b>	<b>God's love in Christ Jesus</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 30:18-26</b>	<b>God's promise to Zion</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Amos 5:10-15</b>	<b>Choose good instead of evil</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Luke 6:37-42</b>	<b>Judging others</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 119:129-136</b>	<b>The glories of God's law</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 14:13-21</b>	<b>Jesus feeds the five thousand</b>

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

*"Give your servant [Solomon] therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil."* **1 Kings 3:9a (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

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

Come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus, give us your truth that we may judge with your steadfast love and mercy for all. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for this food we thank you, and for your wisdom, understanding, and mercy we pray to you. Amen.

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

May the Lord's face shine on you and teach you God's ways. (Psalm 119:135)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- When you have a conflict with someone, are you able to see the situation from the other person's perspective? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to be a fair judge of other people's thoughts and actions?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God of Grace and God of Glory*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Humans have proven throughout the ages that they can explain away any thoughts and actions. Our own sense of truth and justice can be hurtful and unfair. We know how we can try to fool ourselves and others. Solomon also knew this, so he prayed to God for “*understanding to discern what is right*” (1 Kings 3:11b). The Hebrew literally says, “to hear justice.” That is, to let Solomon’s mind perceive and hear real justice on behalf of others. This is a daring prayer that puts others before his—and our own—interests. Our imperfect sense of justice and truth needs the humility of Solomon to recognize that God’s truth stands out from our own. A good example is when the disciples heard the many parables of Jesus. Perhaps the greater wisdom would have been to acknowledge that they really did not understand them (Matthew 13:51).

*Discuss:* When have you prayed for wisdom and understanding?

*Pray:* **God of justice and truth, give us a humble heart that we may see and judge people with mercy and understanding that dares to love others through Jesus Christ 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 humbly and with understanding from their viewpoint?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus told parables to teach people. A parable is a story to explain a moral or spiritual lesson. Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 includes five different parables that Jesus told to the disciples. Each time, he begins by saying, “*The kingdom of heaven is like ...*”. Choose to read one of the five parables and then think or talk about what Jesus is telling you about the kingdom of heaven.

*Pray:* **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**