

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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M A T T H E W 20:16

*"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."*

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

**September 24, 2023**  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *Lord of Light* (ELW 688)



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

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

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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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 (Sung Twice) *He Is Exalted* (W&P 55)**

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev - er ex-alt-ed, and I will praise his

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joi - ce in his ho - ly

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

Chords: F, F/A, B♭, C/B♭, B♭/C, C, Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, B♭/F, E♭M<sup>7</sup>, B♭/C, F, B♭/F, F

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM      *THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY*

### FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

A reading from Jonah.

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

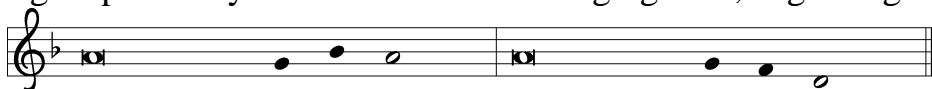
<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

(Sung responsively between choir and congregation, beginning with the choir)



- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works <sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power.**
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,  
and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of <sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully <sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

A reading from Philippians.

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Open Our Eyes, Lord* (W&P 113)

D G<sup>2</sup> G Em<sup>7</sup>/A A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A<sup>7</sup> G/D D<sup>2</sup> D  
him, and say that we love him.

DM<sup>7</sup> A/G G Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> Em/D D  
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going

to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

**SERMON REV. ALAN WILSON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord of All Hopefulness* (ELW 765)**



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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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: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hopkins) (W&P 35)***

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. Chord diagrams are provided above the guitar line for each system.

**System 1:** Chords: C/D mn, Dm/C. Lyrics: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

**System 2:** Chords: C<sup>7</sup>sus, C<sup>7</sup>, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C. Lyrics: you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

**System 3:** Chords: Gm, F/A, F/Bb, C, F, Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>. Lyrics: I might be re - newed. So fill me and

**System 4:** Chords: Am<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, Gm/D, C<sup>7</sup>sus, C<sup>7</sup>. Lyrics: heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

**System 5:** Chords: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, F/Bb, C, F. Lyrics: ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,  
 all things belong to you.  
 We bring your gifts to the table,  
 that all might be fed.  
 Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## **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**

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

## 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *Give Me Jesus* (ELW 770)

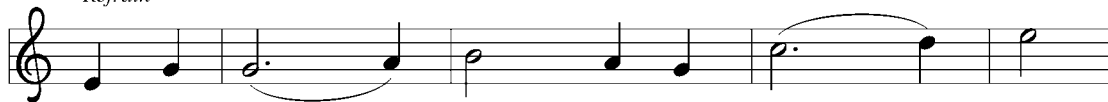


- 1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
- 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
- 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
- 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
- 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
oh, . . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
and . . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

### *Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are: We re-joice in the grace of God poured up - on our lives; lov - ing - kind - ness has come to us be - cause of Je - sus Christ. We re - joice in the grace of God, our hearts o - ver - flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**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 *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (ELW 669)**



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;  
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936  
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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**SENDING IN SERVICE**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

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**SERVING TODAY**

Pastor ..... Rev Alan Wilson  
 Church Office Email Address ..... [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org)  
 Organist ..... Doug Mummert  
 Head Usher ..... Larry Socks  
 Acolyte ..... Wayne Dale  
 Lector..... Wayne Dale  
 Securing Offering ..... Marjorie Dale & Larry Socks  
 Communion Set-Up..... Peggi & Wayne Norman  
 Communion Clean-Up ..... Peggi & Wayne Norman  
 Communion Bread ..... Janice McEntire  
 Communion Assist ..... Janice McEntire & Becky Mull  
 Attendance last Sunday ..... 38



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God.

**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:** *Sam Mull, Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, 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:**

September 27 - Psalms Study 10AM

28 - Choir Practice 7PM

**A special thank you to Rev. Alan Wilson** for filling in as supply pastor this morning.

**Our air-conditioning unit in the Fellowship Center kitchen has become unrepairable and needs to be replaced.** We have a quote of approximately \$6600.00 to replace this unit. To make this replacement, we need congregational approval. Please attend a brief meeting today immediately following worship services to approve this replacement. Thank you, Ron Coldsmith.

**If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Ron Coldsmith, Council President.** Pastor Jane Nicholson, pastor of First Lutheran, Chambersburg, has agreed to provide this care for Solomon's until such time as an interim or settled pastor is called to serve.

**The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary invites you to dine out at MOD Pizza located at 917 Norland Ave, Chambersburg on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** Simply bring in the fundraiser flyer, or order online through the MOD app or website using the code MODGIVES20 and MOD will donate 20% of your bill to the auxiliary. All proceeds support SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge and SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice in Franklin County.

**Fall Picnic/Campfire: Saturday, September 30, 2023** - In the Church Picnic Woods  
Starts at 5:00 pm; Eat at 5:30 pm. Menu: Roast your own Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese; Chips; Watermelon; Roast your own S'mores & Drink.

**Solomon's Relay for Life Team:** Is having a Hammer & Stain Fundraiser – “Stained Resin Wine Glasses or Metal Tumblers Workshop” on Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at: Hammer & Stain, 31 South Main Street, Chambersburg. Go on-line to register & pay at: [hammerstainchambersburg.com](http://hammerstainchambersburg.com). Scroll down on the home page until you see our listing. – “Click on” 10/22/23 Relay for Life Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fundraiser; then you pick which item you want to make; pay directly on the site. **Sign-up deadline is October 8, 2023.** If you have any questions please see Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert. Snacks and Water will be provided. Join us for a fun afternoon!

**Apple Butter and Candy Order forms are here!** Candy Making – Mark your calendars – **Thursday October 26, 2023 & Friday October 27, 2023.** We will be setting up for candy making on Thursday October 26 at 10:00 am. We will be making candy on Friday October 27 at 8:00 am. Apple Butter & Candy Order Forms are in the newsletter and on table in the Sunday School Room. **Apple Butter & Candy orders will need to be turned in by Sunday, October 8, 2023.** Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the Sunday School Room. Candy can be picked up Saturday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 am and Sunday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> after Church.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need starting in September. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write “power pack meals” in the memo of your check.

**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.

**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.

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>	<b>Parable of the vineyard workers</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jonah 3:10–4:11</b>	<b>Jonah goes to Nineveh</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Philippians 1:21-30</b>	<b>What life means to Paul</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 136</b>	<b>God's love never fails</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Matthew 5:3-12</b>	<b>The Beatitudes</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 20:32-38</b>	<b>Paul says goodbye</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 145:1-8</b>	<b>The Lord is kind and merciful</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:23-32</b>	<b>Parable of the two sons</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*“Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”* **Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- When is a time you feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*To God Our Thanks We Give*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

*Discuss:* When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 145:4 tells us: *"One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts."* Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: ***"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."*** (Psalm 145:8)