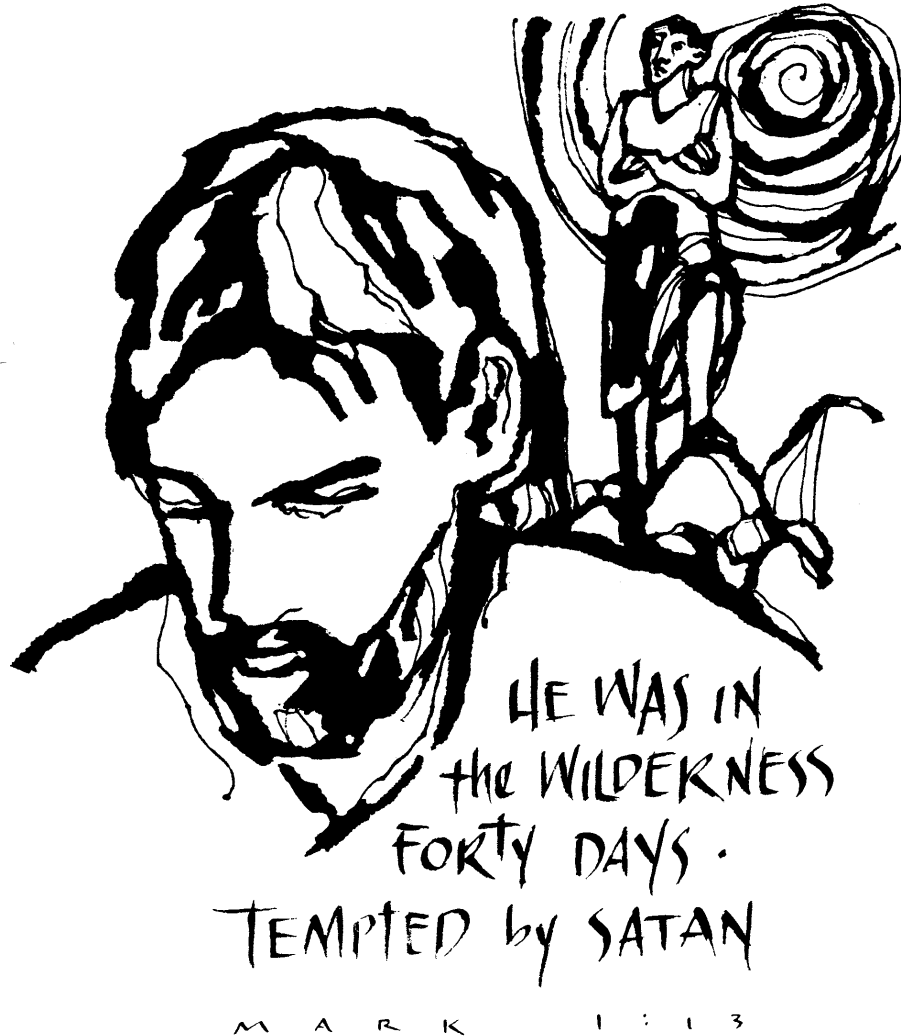


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

EMAIL: [info@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:info@solomonslutheran.org)  
WEB SITE: [www.solomonslutheran.org](http://www.solomonslutheran.org)  
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*"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."*

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**February 18, 2024**  
First Sunday in Lent

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

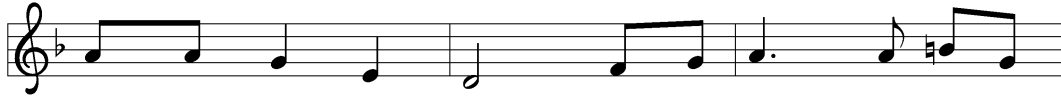
and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)**



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

**VERSE 4**

From the dawning of creation  
you have loved us as your own;  
stay with us through all temptation,  
make us turn to you alone.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

**\*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.**

**\*KYRIE *Kyrie eleison (Dakota Road) (W&P 81)***

*(Congregation sing Refrain; Choir sing Verses)*

*Refrain*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

Vs. 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the Church, for the unity of all; For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord!  
(refrain)

Vs. 2 That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord!  
(refrain)

Vs 3 For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives, in the water and the word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord!  
(refrain)

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* Arr. John Leavitt

**FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17**

A reading from Genesis.

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O

LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who 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. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts* (ACS 1078)

*Refrain – All*

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system, written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -  
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our  
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON *Loving Us All***

\*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Thy Holy Wings* (ELW 613)**



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Used by Permission. CCLI #11066173



**\*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** *All That We Have* (W&P 5)

*Refrain*

All that we have and all that we of - fer comes from a  
heart both fright-ened and free. Take what we bring now and  
give what we need, all done in your name.

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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 *Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentine): Santo, santo, santo (W&P 62)***



*San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



*Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.*  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

**\*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

Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the meal!

## 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 *Jesus, Lamb of God (Jernigan) (W&P 76)*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"  
Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

Text and music © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc., admin. Dayspring Music, Inc. (BMD). All rights reserved. International © secured.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Used by Permission. CCLI #11066173

# COMMUNION HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995  
Music: Doris Akers  
Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME  
Irregular

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**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 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the bread of Life!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from  
ONELICENSE with license #A-719004. All rights reserved.

**SERVING TODAY**

Interim Pastor .....	Pastor Michael Allwein
Cell Phone Number .....	717-357-3814
Email Address .....	mallwein211@gmail.com
Church Office Email Address .....	<u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Pianist .....	Heidi Shenberger
Head Usher .....	Larry Socks
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Terry Fell
Securing Offering.....	Rich McEntire & Ron Coldsmith
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up .....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Bread .....	Colleen Johnson
Communion Assist.....	Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday.....	41

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by Raymond & Terry Fell.

**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 Rosemary Wishard, Bob Estep, Karen, Phil Johnson, Tim Tweedy, Missy Moreui, Becky Ensinger, Ron Bunting, Bobby Seilhamer, 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, 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:**

February 21 - Lenten Service- Trinity Lutheran 7:00PM (Soup supper 5:30PM)  
22 - Choir 7PM

**Copies of the 2023 Annual Report of the Congregation** are available on the table in the Sunday School Room. Please bring the report with you to the meeting on 2/25.

**Easter Flower Orders:** We will be ordering Easter flowers from Lurgan Greenhouse. Yellow daffodils (6" pot) \$8.00; red, yellow, or purple tulips (6 bulbs) \$8.00; and white lilies \$9.00 will be available. Flowers can be picked up after Easter service on March 31 or the following week during office hours. Orders must be received by March 3. Please fill out the order form (last page of bulletin) and place it in the offering plate.

**There will be a Congregation Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>** after the worship service to approve the annual report.

 **Valentine Luncheon** - today in the Fellowship Center following worship. Sponsored by Crusaders for Christ. Please join us for lunch, games, and fellowship!

**Please consider joining the choir for an anthem on Easter morning!** We will rehearse for 15 minutes on Sunday mornings after church, beginning on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is welcome!

**If you are in need of pastoral care,** please notify Pastor Mike Allwein at 717-357-3814.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

**Please consider signing up for altar flowers for the 2024 calendar year.** There are a lot of available Sundays.



**Cancellation Notification.** In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266), will announce when services are cancelled. **On a weekend, this will be done by 4:00pm Saturday.** If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. **If the church office does not have your current email address, please let Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated!** Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

**We are looking for 2 volunteers to attend our Synod Assembly on June 1 at Trinity Lutheran Camp Hill.** Please call Ron Coldsmith if interested.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space.** Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

**The 2024 Chart for Altar flowers is in the office to the left when entering the front door of the sanctuary.** The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need. 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.

**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.

**FEBRUARY 18, 2024**  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**



*Jesus brings the good news of God's reign.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:9-15</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 9:8-17</b>	<b>God's promise to Noah</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 3:18-22</b>	<b>Suffering for doing right</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 14:13-23</b>	<b>Do not make someone stumble</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 16:5-11</b>	<b>Song of trust</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>James 3:13-18</b>	<b>Two kinds of wisdom</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 25:1-10</b>	<b>Prayer for guidance</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 8:31-38</b>	<b>Jesus predicts his death</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." **Mark 1:14-15 (NRSV)***

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, you love what you have created; we thank you for your protection and that you come to bring us peace, joy, and love through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

**Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear God, you remember the lowly and the hungry; we thank you for remembering us with your love and with this meal that gives us strength. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the good news of Jesus give you joy.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- How would you survive in the wilderness?
- How would you describe God's reign to someone?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Calls Us; o'er The Tumult*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 1:9-15.

It is easy to miss the power and drama of Jesus' message that now is the time for the kingdom of God. His message seems so brief. Yet, in Jesus, God's reign is taking on all other claims to power and glory. The arrest of John the Baptist calls attention to another kind of power, the kind that seeks to control and destroy. In a world ordered by inequalities, unfairness, and brutality, another power is needed that can take on such harmful ways. That power is seen in Jesus' ability to take on Satan's deceitful testing of him. We also see it in Jesus being protected from wild beasts that could otherwise cause harm. God's justice and mercy has always championed life, love, and peace. Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, now steps out of his baptismal waters with the power of God's Spirit and takes on all forms of evil and death. We are now called to join this kingdom by turning away from destructive powers and trusting this good and awesome news and kingdom that Jesus brings.

*Discuss:* How do you see God's kingdom in Jesus bringing you and the world good news?

*Pray:* **Merciful and loving God, give us courage to trust the power and presence of your reign of life, love, and peace through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring Jesus' message of love and peace to others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Lay out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place seven votive candles or battery-operated votive candles in the shape of a cross on the cloth. Light one of the candles this first week in Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. *Then pray:* **Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.**

# EASTER FLOWERS - 2024

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Easter Flowers is asked to fill out the following form and return it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with cash or a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Easter Flowers." Flowers will be in the church on Sunday, March 31, 2024, and can be taken home that day, or call the office 717 267-2266 to make other arrangements.

**The deadline to order Easter Flowers is March 3!**

*The Easter Flowers in  
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends  
has been donated by:*

\_\_\_\_\_ *(name)*

**Daffodils** (6" pot)..... \$8.00  
Yellow \_\_\_\_\_

**Tulips** (6 bulbs) ..... \$8.00  
Red \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Purple \_\_\_\_\_

**Lilies**.....\$9.00 White \_\_\_\_\_



Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Total plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_