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

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 9, 2025

March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say - Dale Wood

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,

but our lives do not always reflect you

and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion

you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality

you grant to all people.

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

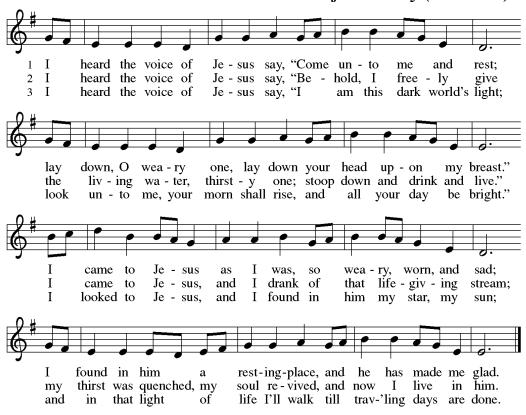
God's arms are always stretched open wide

to welcome the wandering ones home.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

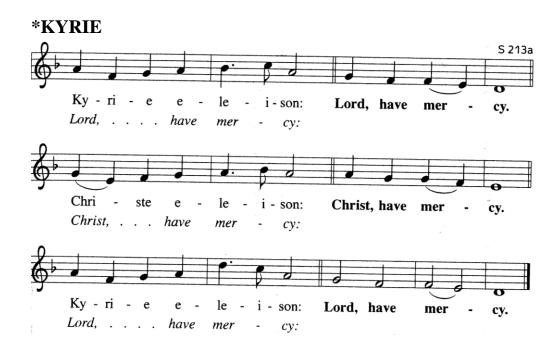
*GATHERING SONG I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW 611)



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

*GREETING

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



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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 - Dana Mengel

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of [|] the Most High, who abide in the shadow of [|] the Almighty—
- ² you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold, my God in whom I | put my trust."
- ⁹ Because you have made the |LORD your refuge, and the Most High your | habitation,
- ¹⁰ no evil | will befall you,

nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.

- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you, to guard you in | all your ways.
- 12 Upon their hands they will | bear you up, lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper; you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ I will deliver those who | cling to me; I will uphold them, because they | know my name.
- ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
- ¹⁶ With long life will I | satisfy them, and show them | my salvation.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

8b "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

11 and

'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Keeping Our Identity!

*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

HYMN OF THE DAY When We Are Tested (ACS 922)



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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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.

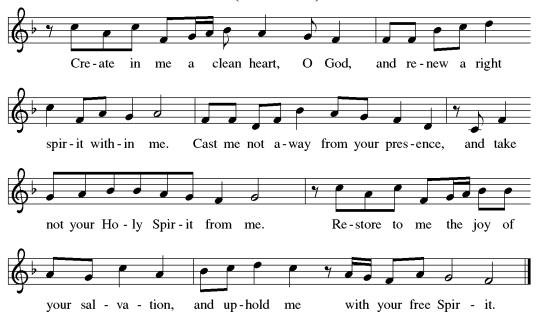
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Please respond)

P: God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

*PEACE

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

*OFFERTORY Create in Me (ELW 186)



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

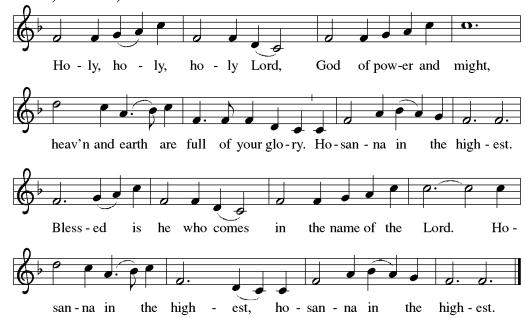
We lift them to the Lord.

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



*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.

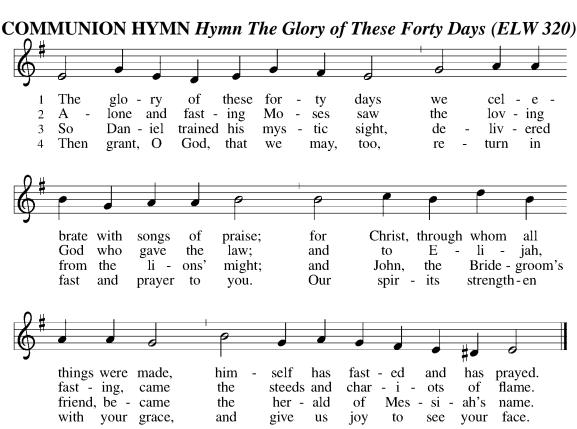
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

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.





Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, +bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG Bless Now, O God, the Journey (ELW 326)



- Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make, Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
- Di vine e ter nal lov er, you meet us road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take. ter - rors, your love sus-tains the hope burns through the day. We lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow.



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round, We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound; but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE Forty Days and Forty Nights - Robert Lau

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Becky Pecha
Acolyte	Norm Kuykendall
Lector	Patricia Yetter
Securing Offering	
Communion Set-Up	Marjorie Dale
Communion Clean-Up	Marjorie Dale
Communion Bread	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist	Martie Veilleux & Carolyn Clouser
Attendance last Sunday	42

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Doug McCleaf given by Carolyn McCleaf and family.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: Brandan DeShong, Carol Ann Pugh, Kaitlyn Dovey, Angela Puchalo, Katelyn Mary Dodge, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.

Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

March 10 - Council 7pm

- 11 Christian Ed 7pm
- 12 Lent Service 7pm (Supper 5:30pm)
- 13 Choir 7pm

This Wednesday, the mid-week Lenten service will be held at Trinity Lutheran, beginning with supper at 5:30, followed by worship beginning at 7:00pm. The offering during this Lenten season will be given to Mercy House, a Hospice Home in Chambersburg.

During the month of April, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the totes under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary still has discount cards available for \$5.00. Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2025. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Becky Pecha if you would like to have a card.

Communion Cards – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

Choir rehearsal - Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. New members are most welcome to join us. We usually rehearse for an hour. See Mary-Jo Bedsworth or any choir member if you have questions.

The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. 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.

The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each. Lots of great recipes! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

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!

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.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

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.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our gathering hymn this morning, *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, was written by Horatius Bonar, a Scottish minister. When he became a pastor in the Scottish church, he felt there was not a substantial library of hymns. The church sang mostly metrical Psalms. Bonar had a gift and interest in writing verse, so he began writing hymns, first for youth and later for adult worship. His hymns were well received by his church and others. "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" was one of the hymns he wrote, perhaps his most famous song, which was received well not only in Scotland but also in the wider English-speaking world. What makes the hymn so widely appealing may well be its focus on the gospel call of Christ to come to him, look to him, drink, and rest, and the simple call to obey and to find in him all that he has promised. It is simple, sweet and encouraging.

(<u>challies.com/hymnstories</u>). The organ prelude by Dale Wood is also based on this hymn tune.

Our communion hymn this morning, *The Glory of These Forty Days*, is a hymn used during the season of Lent. It has the distinction of having been written by St. Gregory the Great (540-604) although some scholars dispute that and suggest its actual authorship is unknown. Regardless of the author, it has a long and venerable history. The hymn is a 1906 translation by Anglican Minister, Maurice F. Bell (1862-1906). It was traditionally sung at Matins during Lent. In our hymnal, it is set to the Lutheran hymn tune *Erhalt' uns*, *Herr* by Joseph Klug (1523-1552). The hymn was first published in 1543 with later harmonies added by J. S Bach (1685-1750). (Aleteia.org)

EASTER FLOWERS - 2025

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, April 20, 2025, 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 23!

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

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	(name)			
Daffodils (6"pot) Yellow	\$8.00			\$8.00 Purple
1	Lilies\$	9.00 White		
Total amount enclosed		_ Total pla	nts ordered	
In memory of				
In memory of				
In honor of				
In honor of				