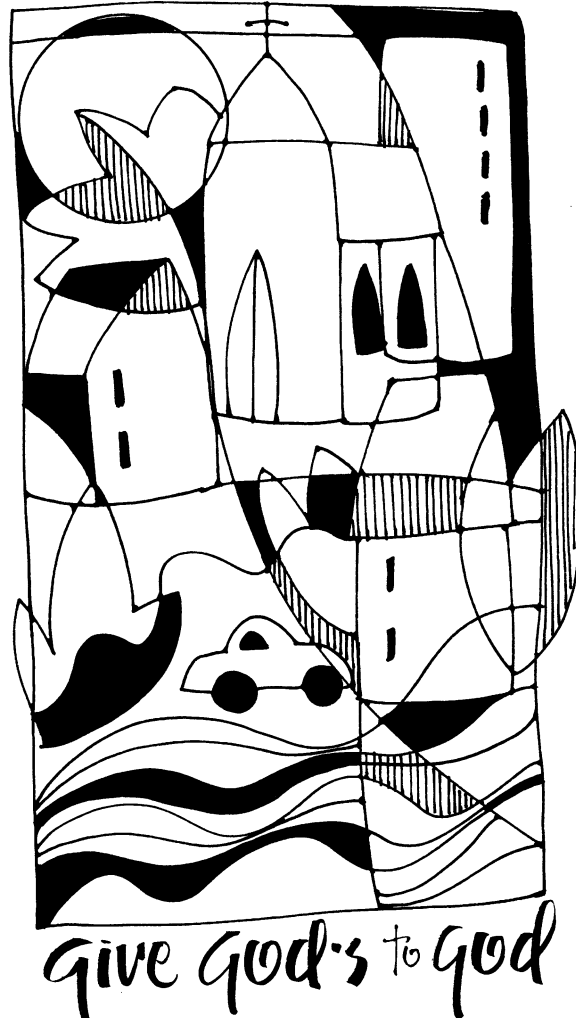


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 18, 2026

October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *You Servants of God* - arr. Harold DeCou

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

*GATHERING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825)



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

*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 (ELW p. 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

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

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹ all the earth.
- [¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- ¹
ples with equity.”**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing, O LORD,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

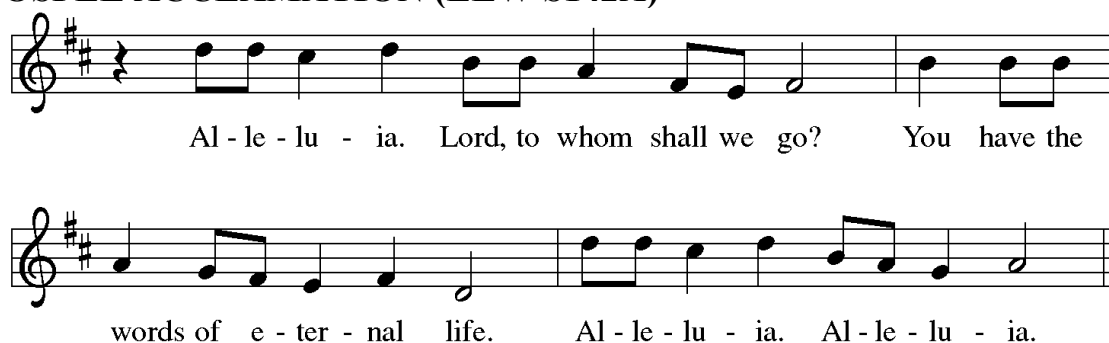
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW S142A)**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Michael Ross

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 685)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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)

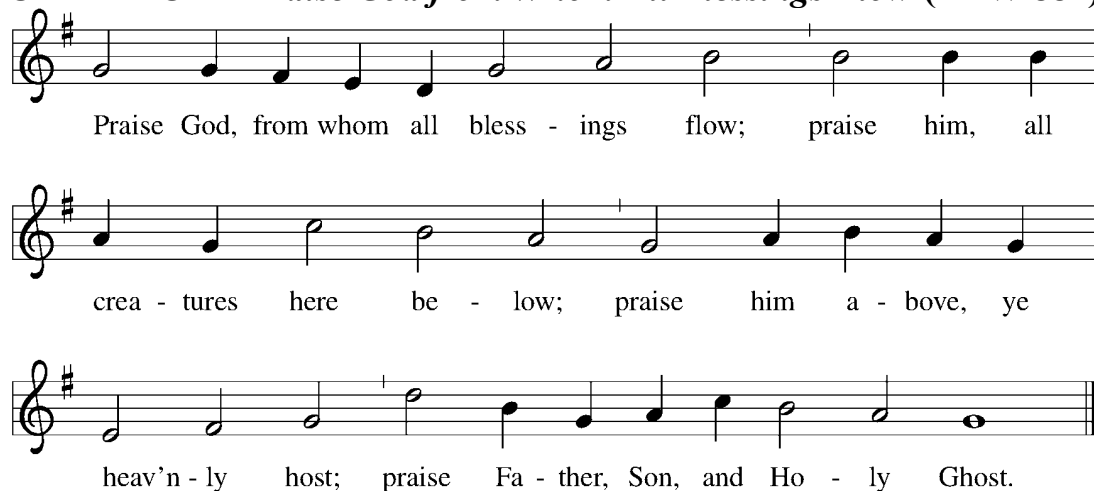
P: Hear us, O God. C: **Your mercy is great.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***OFFERTORY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

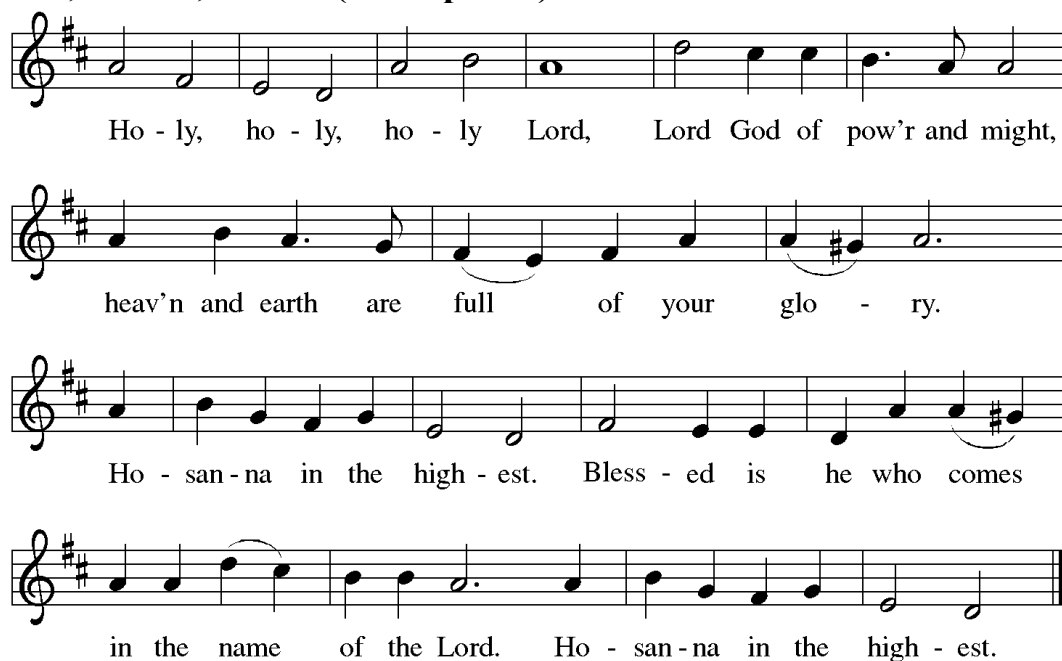
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.**

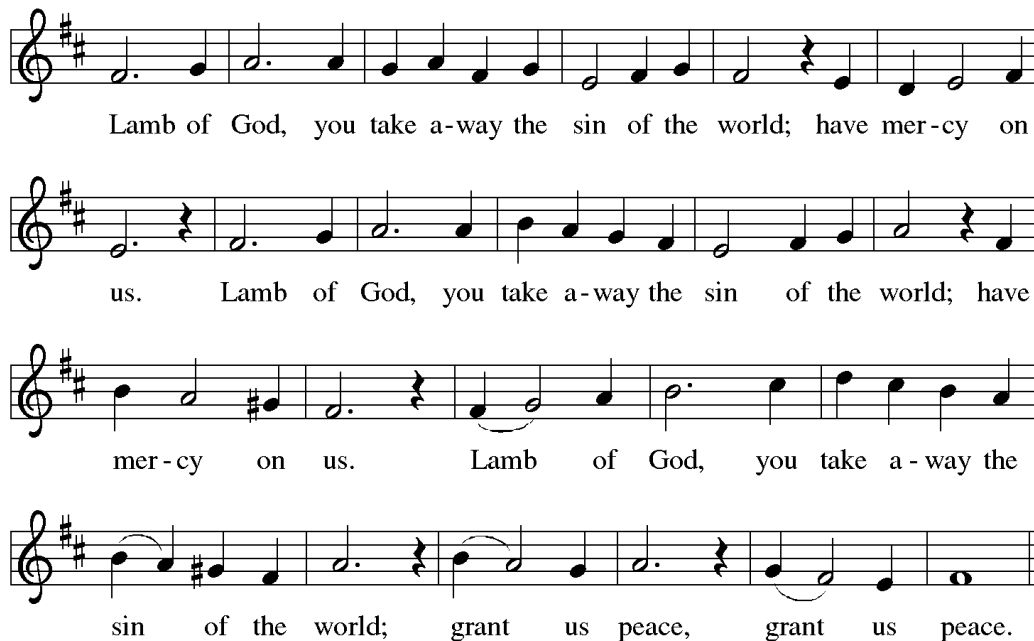
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 (ELW p. 154)



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.

COMMUNION TIME FOR QUIET MEDITATION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

*BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Postlude in C* - Christian Cappelen

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SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....	Pastor Michael Ross
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Tana Vance
Acolyte	Janice McEnitre
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering.....	Becky Mull & Sarge Weaver
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up	Becky Pecha
Communion Assist	Marjorie Dale
Attendance last Sunday.....	42

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of J. Austin Hess given by Glenn and Susie Henicle.

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!

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Christopher Frye, Dean of the Chambersburg Conference at 717-261-1213 (St. Luke's Church, Scotland).

Please welcome Pastor Michael Ross with a warm “thank you” for leading our worship service this morning.

Prayer requests for the following: *Glenn Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Ellie Martin, Ina Shreiner, Dick & Vicki Reichard, Dick Amt, Phil Johnson, Betty Amt, Marie Dovey, Amy Eichelberger, Paul Steiding, Sam Brooks, Kaitlyn Dovey, Patsy Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Charles Carl, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Becky Ensinger, all the Homebound, and our world & country. 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:

October 20 - Property 1pm
22 - Choir 7pm

Next Sunday, October 25, is Reformation Sunday. The color of the day is red! Be sure to wear red as we celebrate this special Sunday in the life of our Lutheran Church!

Attention all members – Please plan to attend our upcoming Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 15 immediately following our worship service. We will be electing church council members and approving the church's budget for 2027.

Attention all members – Please plan to attend our upcoming Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 13 immediately following our worship service. We will be casting our second vote to leave ELCA and join The Association of Free Lutheran Churches.

The choir is enjoying a Sunday off this morning, enabling them to sit in the congregation and worship with you for the entire service. They will be back in the choir chairs next Sunday for Reformation!

Please check your church mailbox for your time and talent sheet and contribution commitment card.

Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Sarge will be leading the study.

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.

Power Pack Meals - Social Ministry is once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2026-2027 school year. Please place the items in the container in the Sunday School room. 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 line, or place cash in an envelope and mark *power pack*.

The 2026 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.

The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 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 \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our gathering hymn this morning, "You Servants of God," was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Wesley is said to be one of the most prolific hymnwriters of all time. The hymn was first published in 1744. At that time, there was a great deal of opposition to, and persecution of, the Methodists in England. Their meetings were broken up by mobs and many of their preachers were forced into the army. During all this, the Wesleys published a pamphlet containing 33 pieces entitled *Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution*, and this hymn was included. In this hymn, Wesley provided a way for persecuted Christians to sing a hymn of praise amidst all the turmoil, with the reminder of God's gift of salvation and love. It provides a source of comfort and strength for those struggling and a reminder that God's never-ending love is the most important thing that will remain. (Umcdiscipleship.org; hymntune.com).

Our hymn of the day, "Take My Life and Let it Be," was written by Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879) and published in *Songs of Grace and Glory* in 1874. Miss Havergal, during a visit with friends, prayed that God would use her witness to win all ten members of the family to Christ. "Before I left the house, everyone got a blessing," she wrote. On the last night of her visit, twelve couplets came to her mind dealing with true consecration, which involves mind, body, words, deeds, intellect, will, money, possessions, and the whole self. The final couplet integrates and sums up these with "Ever, only, ALL for Thee!" (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 97).

Our sending hymn this morning, "God of grace and God of glory," was written in the summer of 1930 by Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) to be used for the opening service and dedication of the famous Riverside Church in New York City. Fosdick wrote the hymn as he reflected on the construction of the new building. As we sing this hymn, it may be helpful to remind ourselves of the events that shaped the "hour" and the "days" that provide the context of the hymn. The hymn was written while the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression between the two World Wars. Fosdick was a champion of the social gospel, a movement that recognized the plight of the poor, especially in the urban Northeast during the Industrial Revolution. The language of the hymn is ultimately that of petition or prayer. "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage" concludes each stanza with the effect of a refrain, asking for God's wisdom and courage to face the problems of our day. We beg for God's power, confess our fear and pride, and affirm a desire to seek social justice. (Umcdiscipleship.org; hymnary.org).