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

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: 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."

NOVEMBER 15, 2026
TWENTY- FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *As Saints of Old ("Forest Green")* - Dale Wood

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
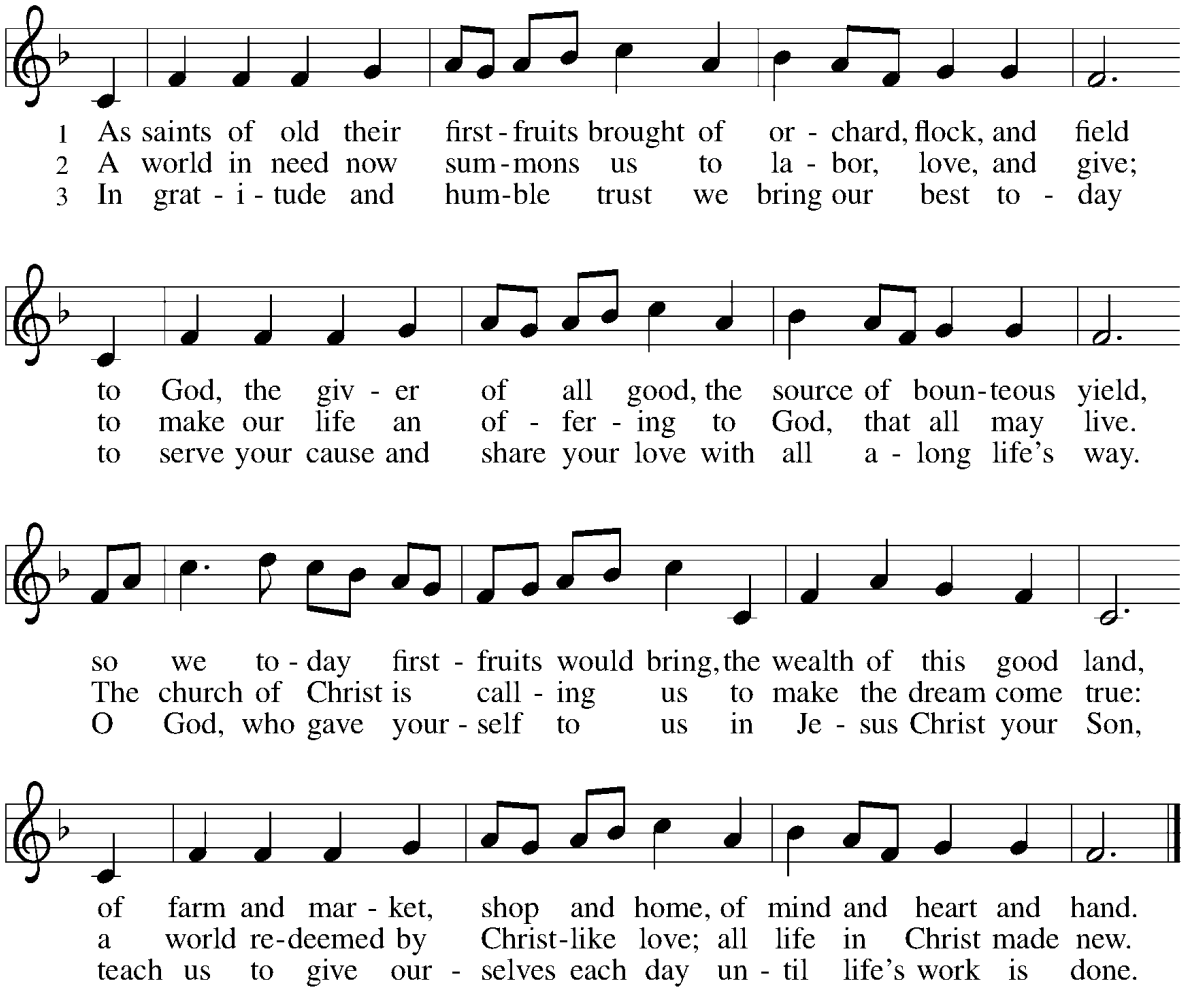
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

*GATHERING SONG *As Saints of Old* (ELW 695)



Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
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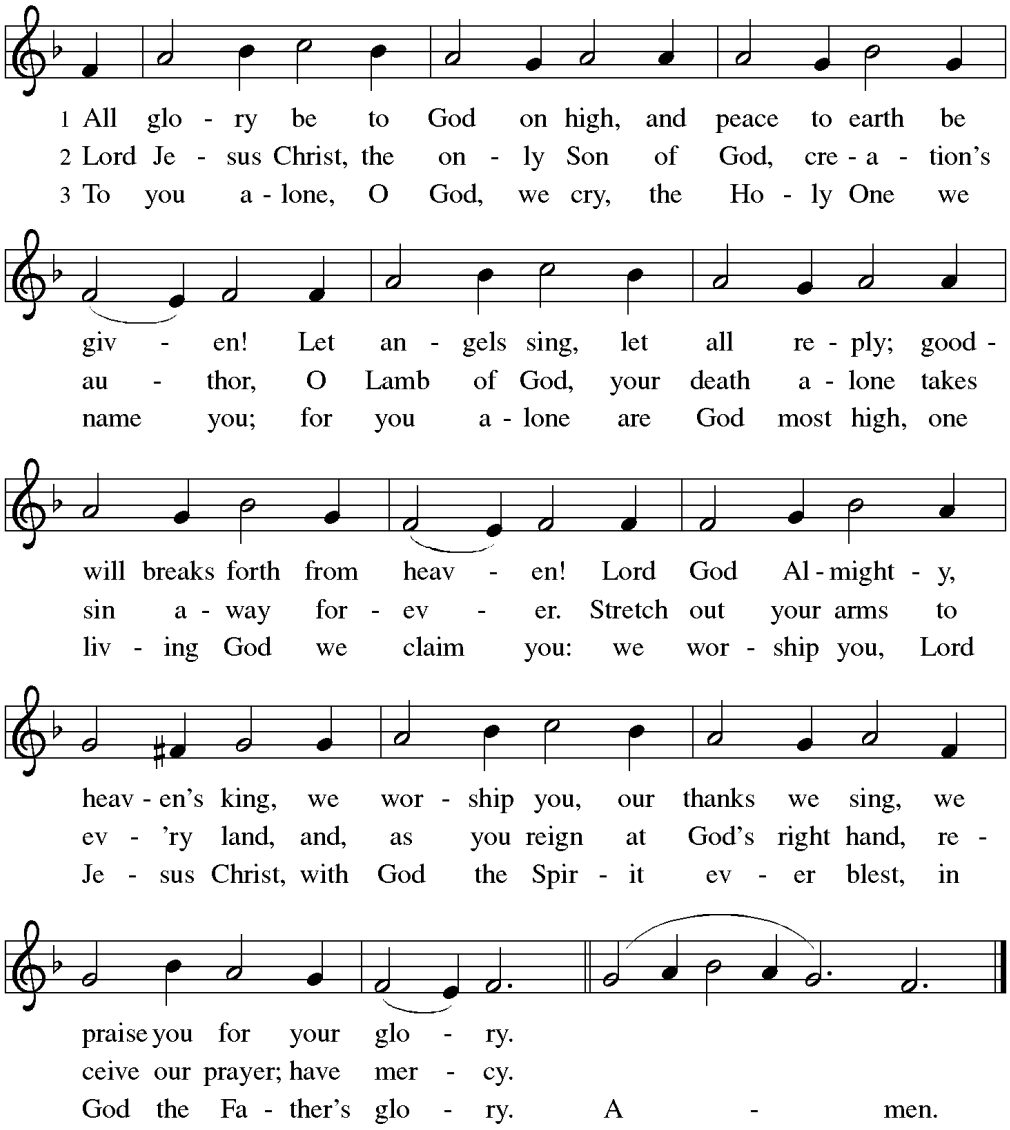
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*GREETING

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

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 159)**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD *as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the* LORD.

[7] Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
[12] At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
[13] Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
[14] The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
[15] That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
[16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
[17] I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
[18] Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

[1] Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night;
[5] you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
[9] When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
[11] Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
[12] **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

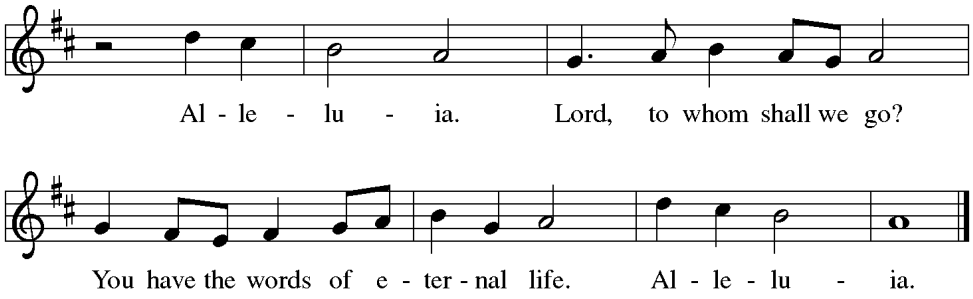
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate

of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. S151A)**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
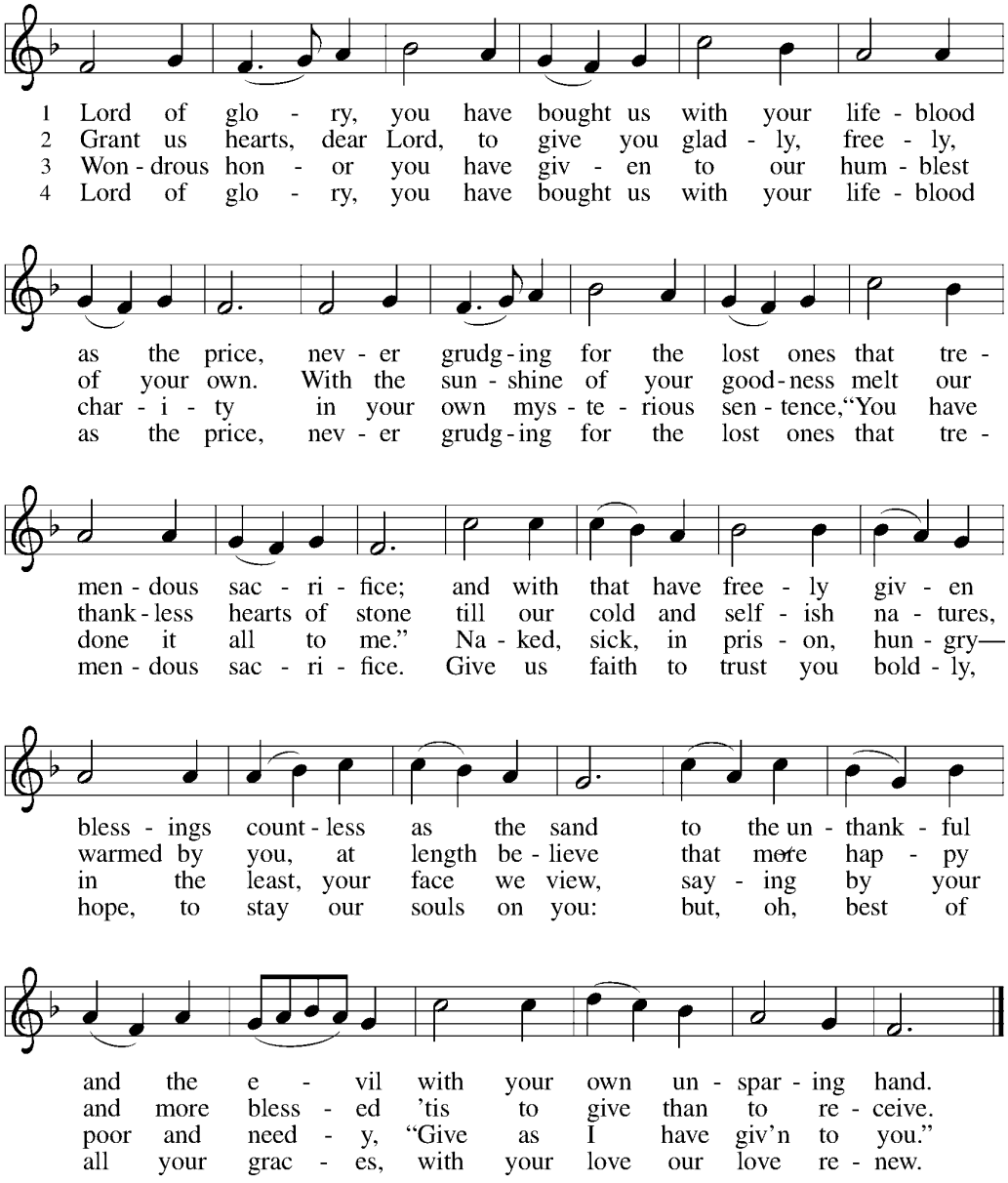
where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON Rev. Michael Ross

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* (ELW 707)



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: hear our prayer.**

***PEACE**

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

CHORAL OFFERTORY ***At the Table of the Lord*** **- Jay Althouse**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

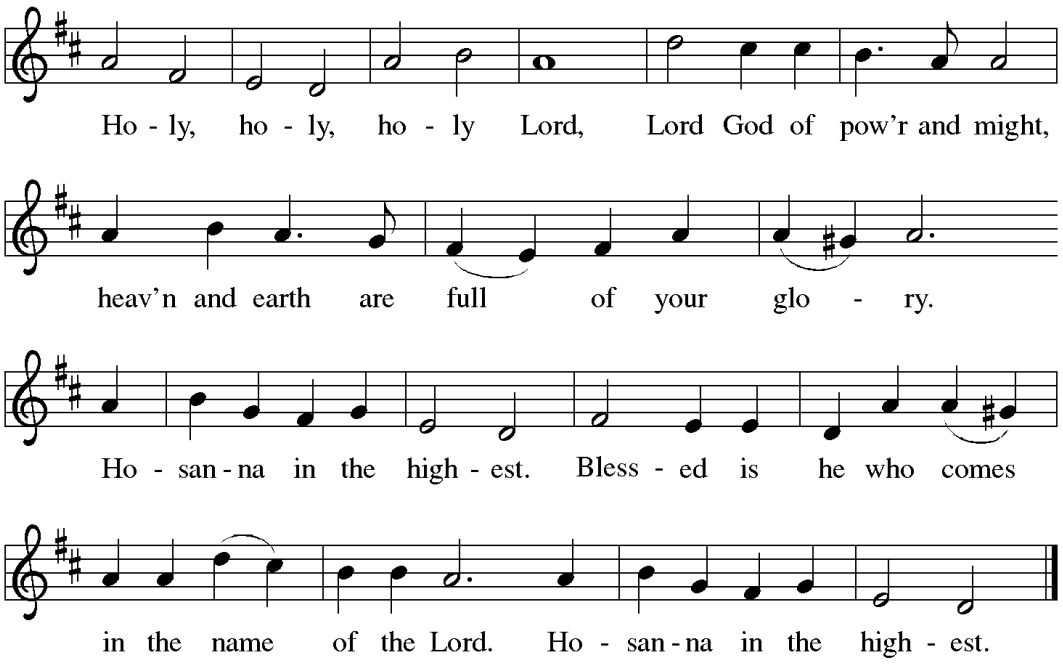
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
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)



***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.

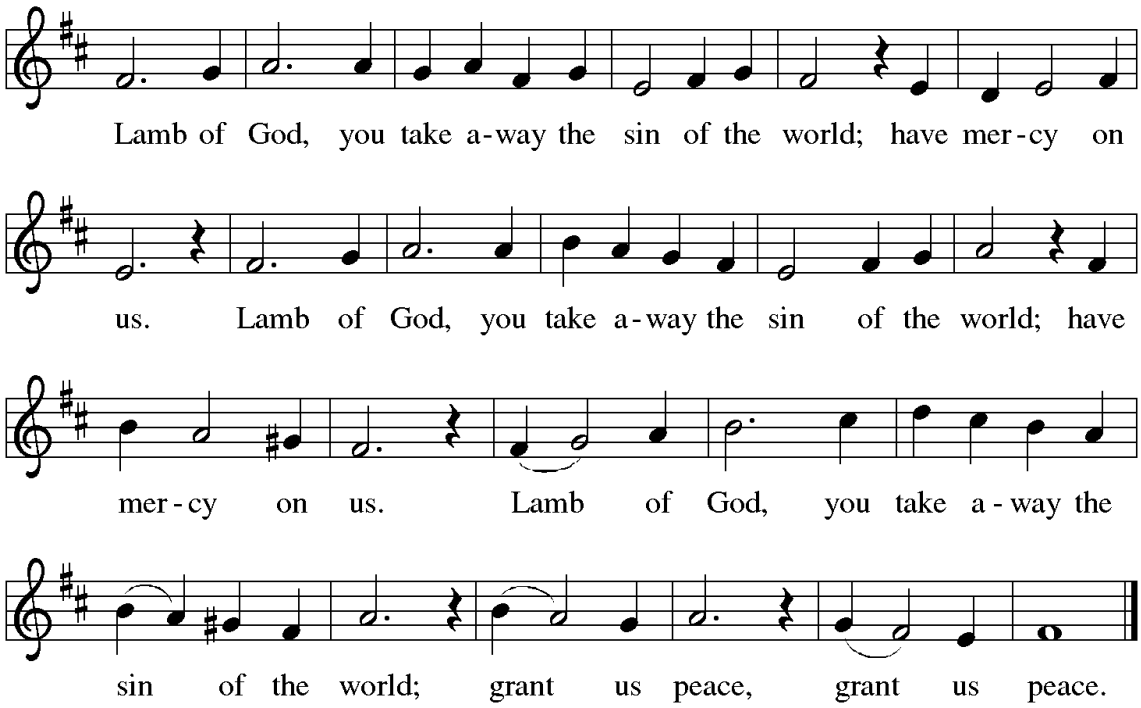
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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)



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.
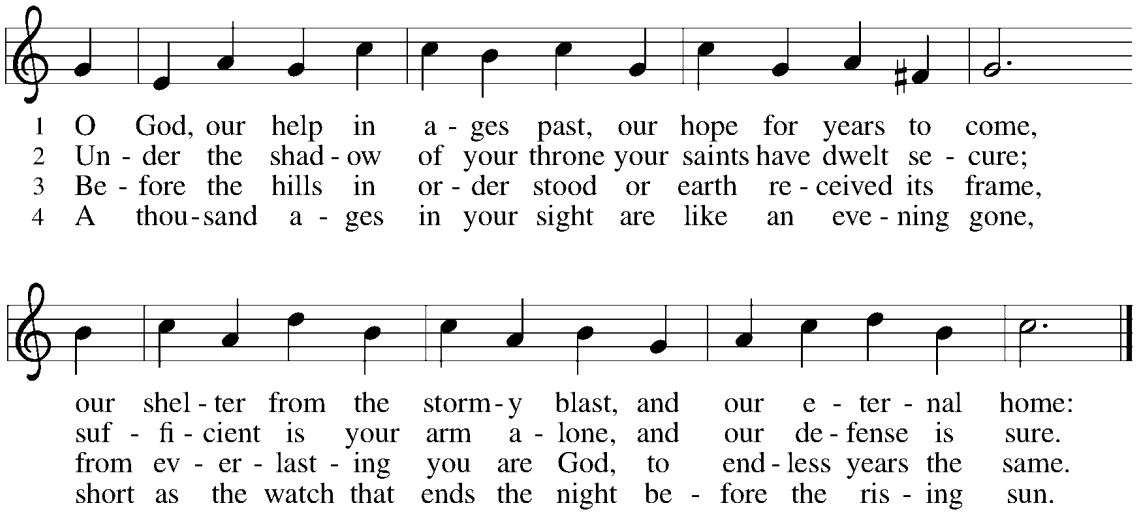
***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.

***BLESSING**

The holy Trinity,
Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (ELW 632)**



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor..... Rev. Michael Ross
Church Office Email Address .....office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist .....Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher..... Ron Coldsmith
Acolyte .....Janice McEntire
Lector..... Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering..... Janice McEntire & Kathy Bowen
Communion Set-Up..... Marjorie Dale
Communion Clean-Up ..... Marjorie Dale
Communion Bread .....Frances Reichard
Communion Assist ..... Marjorie Dale
Attendance last Sunday……28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of our daughter, Abby given by Mark and Sally Gayman.

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*: Donald Detwiler, Clif Rau, 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:

November 17 - Property 1pm
19 - Choir 7pm

Thanks for all your help in preparing and serving the Thanksgiving Dinner. It was very much appreciated.

Required meeting with the bishop, on Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00 pm. in the church. Members are encouraged to attend.

Book Signing

Pastor Mike has recently published a short memoir based on one of his cruise excursions. He will be preaching here on November 22, and he is willing to offer a book signing, selling the book for $20 and giving $15 to a "cause" designated by the Solomon Council. Below is a description of the book.

Reflection by a Cruise Ship Chaplain

Although this is a memoir of a cruise excursion from Seattle to Sydney, part diary and part spiritual journal, it is so much more! These are thoughts, misgivings, wonderings, conflictual musings and calming daydreams. Each day at sea offers a fresh horizon and a gentle reminder that life is a journey of body, soul and mind. We experience moments of serenity and flashes of improbability, yet the ocean teaches us to trust even when we cannot see what lies ahead and what lolls below. We are reminded that every person on board carries a distinctive and exceptional story. A chaplain's ministry is found not only in worship but also in unobtrusive and unpredicted conversations, listening with an open heart, celebrating life's joys, and offering comfort in the midst of life's sorrows or worries. Sometimes the greatest gift is simply presence. In a world that too often moves at breakneck speed, this memoir offers the invitation to slowing reflection, embracing the beauty and noticing the potential danger surrounding and supporting this floating jamboree, continually nudging an appreciation of each new day. This is not a book to be read in a day; rather, a daily devotional to be read slowly, rooted in Spirit and Truth.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29 and on each of the 3 Sundays in December, we will provide an opportunity for all of us to sing Christmas carols prior to worship. The carols are found in our ELW hymnal #267 - #300. Look through these hymns and pick out your favorite carol or carols and come prepared to join in singing some of the beautiful carols found in our hymnal. We will begin at 10:05 AM and conclude by 10:15 AM, when we will then transition into preparing for our Advent worship service.

Social Ministry has a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room for Salvation Army Ringing the Bells on Monday, November 30 at the Butcher Shoppe. If you are willing to serve, please sign up.

The 36th Annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination will take place on **Saturday, December 5th.** This is a very fulfilling and emotional event which honors the 23,110 casualties which occurred during the battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Volunteers are greatly needed to set up and light the luminaries. Solomon's is responsible for setting up and lighting approximately 720 luminaries. Volunteers should be at our field (by the lookout tower), no later than 8:30 AM. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the Sunday School room. For further information please contact Bonney Coldsmith.

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.

Social Ministry is collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry during the month of November. Items needed are toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, Kleenex, etc. Please place items in the container under coat rack next to mailboxes.

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.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our Hymn of the Day this morning, "Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us" was written by William Walsham How (1823-1897). It is truly a heartfelt hymn that reflects on the incredible sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who purchased our redemption through His blood. This hymn beautifully emphasizes the themes of Christ's atoning work, grace, and the call for believers to live lives of service and gratitude. It serves as a reminder of the great cost of salvation and invites us to worship the One who redeemed us. As we sing the hymn this morning, focus on the lyrics and be moved by Christ's love and sacrifice for all of us. (divinehymns.com).

Isaiah 41:9-10 says, "I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." No matter our situation, no matter our struggles and fears, no matter doubts, we are told to have courage, for the Lord is our God. And as Isaac Watts writes so powerfully in our sending hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," our God is everlasting, and will be our help through all of our years. The very first verse gives us every assurance we need: God is our help, our hope, and our home. This does not simply dismiss our fears and troubles. They are, and always will be, very real. But it does assure us that even if we cannot feel the immediate comfort, or even when all we can do is grieve, we have a God that withstands the storms of life and the tests of time, and who protects us and hears our cries. (Hymnary.org).