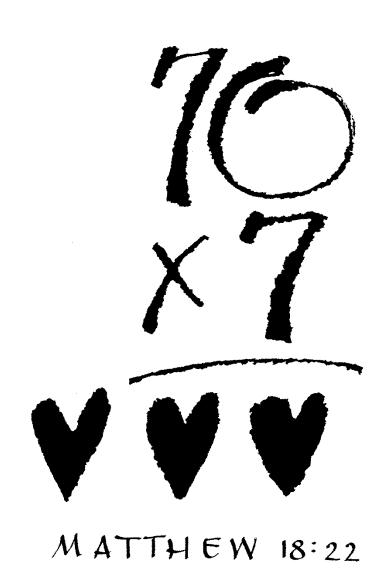
SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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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."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin

and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace

and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another

before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of

Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (ELW 834) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE 99 10 10 3 3 and refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Read responsively between men and women, beginning with the men.

8LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
9you will not al- | ways accuse us, nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
10You have not dealt with us according | to our sins, nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

- ¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth, so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹²As far as the east is | from the west, so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
- ¹³As a father has compassion | for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

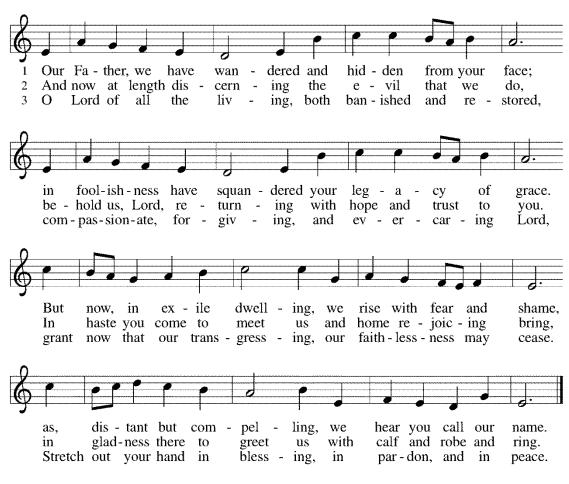
²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

SERMON Pastor Bill

HYMN OF THE DAY *Our Father, We Have Wandered* (ELW 606) Our Father, We Have Wandered



Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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 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: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

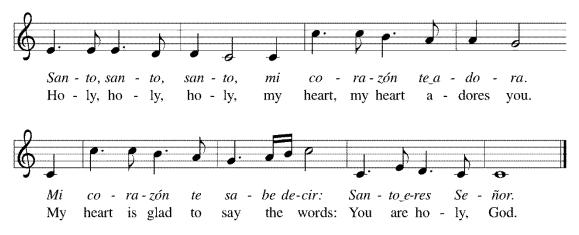
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



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

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

COMMUNION

Continuous – Please continue down center aisle at direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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 O Christ, Our Hope (ELW 604)



Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor – Rev. Bill Nienstedt

Home Phone Number: 717-264-3757

Email Address: Pastor@solomonslutheran.org

Church Office Email Address: office@solomonslutheran.org

Organist – Doug Mummert Acolyte – Sarah Aldrich Lector – Richard Graven Head Usher – Frances Reichard

Communion Clean-up - Kathy Bowen, Carole Darr

Stewardship Thought – **September 13, 2020** (15th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19) We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. – **Romans 14:26-27**

What is the common good? For Christians, it is expressed in the reign, or way, of Christ. We are accountable to God for how we treat one another; how we reflect the love of Christ through both our words and our actions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chancel flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in gratitude for 60 years of marriage given by Bernie and Edna Harris.

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 persons: *Isabel Overcash*, *Darrell Veilleux*, *Patricia Yetter*, *Denise Bowen*, *Ty McEntire*, *Jeffrey Wenger*, *Jack White*, *Jack Hess*, *Sylvia Wenger*, *Jay Hunter*, *Bill Chiado*, *Patsy Wagner*, *Anne English*, *Bill Sellers*, *Millie Kulkusky*, *Curt Shreiner*, *Genny Grant*, *Karen Sanders*, *Jackson*, *Bonnie Hudson*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. 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.

Altar Flowers: If you will not be attending worship on a Sunday you have donated the flowers, please contact Sally to arrange pick-up or request they be donated.

Solomon's Capital Campaign for Luther Ridge Skilled Care Center: In support of Solomon's five-year \$5,000 pledge to the capital campaign for the SpiriTrust Lutheran Skilled Care Center at Luther Ridge, please consider making a financial contribution if you are able. The Skilled Care Center provides rehabilitation and nursing care for those in need in our community. Make your check out to Solomon's and mark it "Luther Ridge Skilled Care" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Lutheran Disaster Response: California is experiencing the worst wildfires in history, which have burned over one million acres and destroyed thousands of structures. In addition, Hurricane Laura has devastated parts of coastal Louisiana. Lutheran Disaster Response is providing immediate needs such as food and other life necessities in these two states. Please consider making a donation to help with these efforts. Make your contribution payable to Solomon's and mark it "US Wildfires" or "Hurricanes" or both. 100% of your donation will be used for these efforts. Thank you for your generosity.

Mark your calendar! Sunday, September 13th, 11 AM - until Sold out!

SpiriTrust Chambersburg Auxiliary is sponsoring Smith's BBO Chicken

Includes: ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, choice of applesauce or macaroni salad, roll and butter

\$12.00/dinner. Drive through service...Come after church service! Location – In front of Franklin Hardware & Pet Store, 1975 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg Please call Marjorie Dale @ 717-860-7544 for additional information. **Congregation Council Meeting** will be held on Monday, September 14 at 7:00 PM.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary voted to postpone their 2020 Membership Drive due to Covid-19. However, if you wish to make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020 please feel free to give your donation by sending it to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Any questions please call Marjorie at 717-860-7544.

On September 19, the Kitchen Committee is sponsoring a yard sale. We have cleaned the kitchen cupboards and items that we have never used will be offered for sale. We are making tables available for \$10 if anyone else would like to join us. This could be yard sale or craft items. This will be done out in the parking lot and hot dogs, soda, chips, and water will be served. Time will be from 8AM - 2PM. If interested in a table, call Frances (717-360-5243) or Margie (717-860-7544).

The New Franklin Ruritan is hosting a Smith's BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, September 19th from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Super Shoes Parking Lot on Lincoln Way East. Meals include a half chicken, baked potato, potato roll, coleslaw or applesauce. Tickets are \$12 and you are encouraged to purchase them by Sept. 6th as only a limited number of walk-in meals may be available. Proceeds benefit the New Franklin Ruritan and Solomon's United Church of Christ.

Hammer & Stain Relay for Life Fundraiser: The Hammer and Stain fundraising event is still scheduled for <u>Sunday</u>, <u>Sept. 27th at 1:00 p.m.</u> There is still time to sign up for this event. Projects can be taken home to work on. A limited number of people are permitted in the studio!

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

2020 Order Form



Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Christmas Poinsettias is asked to fill out the following form and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate (beside the Baptismal Font), along with a check make payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Poinsettia Order." Deadline for **red, white, burgundy, marble (pink & white) and pink** poinsettias is October 25, 2020. Cost is \$7.00. This is a 6 ½ inch pot and the flower will have 3-5 blooms. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Johnson.

The Christmas Poinsettias in Memory and Honor of Family and Friends have been donated by:

Red	White	_ Burgundy	Marble	Pink	
Total amount enclosed Total Poinsettias ordered					
In memo	ry of				
In memo	ry of				
In honor	of				
In honor	of				

Poinsettias must be taken home on Dec. 24th *after the evening service*. Extra order forms are available in the pamphlet rack at both doors.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The people of God forgive.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Wednesday	Exodus 14:19-31	Crossing the Red Sea
Thursday	Psalm 114	The Lord works wonders
Friday	John 8:1-11	Jesus intercedes for a woman
Saturday	Psalm 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the forgiveness of God bless you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:4)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What does forgiveness mean to you? Give an example.
- Was there ever a time when you could not forgive someone? Explain.
- How is God's forgiveness a gift to you? to the church? to the world?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Healer of Our Every Ill



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages (a denarius was one day's wage). The differences are extreme to make the point that God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again (v. 22). Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life (vv. 34-35). How can you praise God today by forgiving someone who has offended or hurt you? How does this parable help bring joy to your soul?

Pray: Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Pray for that person. Reflect on God's love and mercy shown through people like Joseph and write a note of forgiveness to that person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Forgiveness is the theme this week in Bible readings, caring conversations, devotions, and service. Breaking a plate, saying something mean, and telling a lie are things we may not mean to do, but they happen. Think of a time when you needed to be forgiven. God forgives us again and again. Think about what this means to you. Pray the Lord's Prayer, pause as you pray, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", then finish the prayer.

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