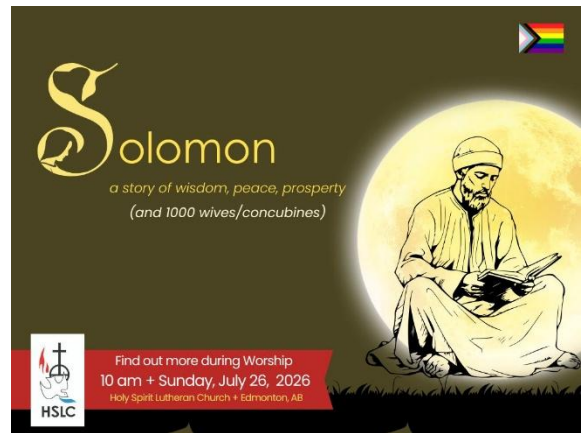




A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community
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July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Margie N
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Paul T & Ellen P

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Jared Samborski
Video/Live Stream: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Kathryn Elford

Welcome

Gathering Song *"The Night You Gave Us, God, Has Ended"* (ACS 994) vs 1,4,5

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Children's Time

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;**

it gives understanding | to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant

because I long for | your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**

as you always do to those who | love your name. R

¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**

and I will keep | your commandments.

¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant

and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,**

because people do not | keep your teaching. R

Second Reading Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Verse - Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

Gospel Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon

Song of the Day ‘*Deep in Our Hearts*’ (MV 154)

Inclusive Creed

**We believe in God,
source of all life, source of all love.
Creation within our past and our future.
Mother and Father of all that’s to be.
We believe in God.
Christ of our history.
Link with eternity.
One with our humanness.
Revealing our hopefulness.
Traveler before us, the sign of the way.
We believe in God, spirit of newness,
spirit of power wisdom and wonder, mystery and miracle.
God moves in freedom, transforming the earth.
We believe in the Church, born of our struggles.
Open to changes, centered in loving, and moving and growing.
Heart of the community turned to the world.
Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

In our prayers: Gertie B, Carl C, Susan K, Cody M, Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, Shirley E, Faye P, Pr. Rod A, Dorothea K, Carola U, Darlene & Randy F, Anna E, Pathma D, Brenda K, Verna L, the de Jong family as they mourn the loss of Tom, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

Peace

Offertory *‘Come to Me, All You Who are Weary’* Liturgy of the Beloved

Offering Prayer

Thanksgiving at the Table – *spoken*

Alternate Lord’s Prayer

**Loving God, through the Spirit’s revelation,
may Your true nature be honored everywhere.**

May Your reign of love come.

**May desire of Your heart for the world be done,
in us, by us and through us in the power of the Spirit.**

Give us the bread we need for each day.

Forgive us.

Enable us to forgive others.

Keep us from all anxiety and fear.

**For You reign in the power
that comes from love which is Your glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Communion Songs

‘Lamb of God’ Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

‘Build a Longer Table’ (ACS 1062)

‘Bring Many Names’ (ACS 1094)

‘This is Christ’s Body’ (ACS 967)

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song *‘May the God of Hope Go with Us’* (ACS 984)

Dismissal

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