“I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation….” Romans 1:17a

CALL TO WORSHIP: Come, bow down and worship, kneel to the Lord, our Maker. This is our God, our shepherd, we are the flock led with care.

INVOCATION: Too often, O God, we pray, “Listen, Lord, for your children are speaking.” Today help us to pray, “Speak, Lord, for your children are listening.” Help our ears to hear your Word. Help our hearts to trust what you say. Help our hands and feet to do what you call us to do. In Christ’s name. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE: Psalm 149
1 Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.
2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.
4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.
5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.
6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,
7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,
8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,
9 to carry out the sentence written against them—this is the glory of all his faithful people. Praise the LORD.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 1:8-25
8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. 9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you. 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith. 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.
16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

MESSAGE: God’s Visible Witness

THE LORD’S SUPPER
   Invitation
   Blessing the bread and cup
   Sharing

BENEDICTION: Tender and compassionate God, you long to gather us in your arms as a hen gathers her chicks. Draw us to yourself in love, surround us with your grace, and keep us in the shelter of your wings so that in our time of testing we may not fall away, even as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us when he said, “Our Father…. ”