

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281
Password: 408299

If you are planning to return to in-person worship services, please let Caitlyn know that you no longer need to receive the bulletin in the mail.

GATHERING

If you are not online and worshipping at home with more than one person, the parts may be divided up responsively or may be prayed in unison.

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

HYMN *(see next page)*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *zoom/in person worship*

THE WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] ¹Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made

himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'" ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 133 *Read responsively*

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

That you would make us a congregation capable of holding people's deep hurts and hopes, and that ministries of reconciliation and forgiveness may be rooted in the cross's costly grace, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That you would send more rain to nourish crops and gardens, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That boiling political hatred in our nation would be converted into passion for developing a vibrant common life, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That you would send mercy and practical help to those experiencing severe distress in the wake of disaster, especially the people of Beirut, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That youth who have experienced trauma of any kind would find healing, hope, and relief, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That school administrators, teachers, staff, and bus drivers may find support and direction through a difficult start of the year; that you would give parents guidance as they make choices about schooling, and that students would have their fears relieved, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That those who are searching for cures and vaccinations for all diseases, especially coronavirus, may find success, and that those who are ill or injured in any way receive a measure of healing and the comfort of your presence, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That those who experience the cruel reality of death this week may be sustained by your Son's victory over the grave, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

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.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, let us pray in the words that 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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God!

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Judy Wadding	Reader
Judy Wadding	Crucifer
Signe Miller	Organist
Bob & Karen Domanski, Bill & Judy Vilcheck	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 8/17	12:00 PM	NA Meeting
	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 8/18	12:00 PM	NA Meeting
Thursday, 8/20	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	1:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir
Saturday, 8/22	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We mourn with the family of Marjorie Ellis, who died in resurrection hope on August 8th. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her. Condolences can be sent to 2 Cecelia Ave. Lyndora, PA 16045 or twmjellis@zoominternet.net.

In-person worship on August 30th will be held at Lutherlyn at 10 a.m. followed by a boxed-lunch picnic. The service will be also be zoomed. *Please call (724-283-2378) or email (officefelc@zoominternet.net) Caitlyn in the church office this week if you plan to attend in person.* Here is some important information:

- Both worship and the picnic will take place at the amphitheater at camp.
- Please bring a mask to wear during the service; family groups will be seated at a 6 ft distance from one another.
- A small group will provide singing for the service at a considerable (26 ft) distance from the gathered congregation.
- We'll celebrate the baptism of Spencer Stein.
- We'll offer a blessing of backpacks and devices for the 2020 school year for students and teachers.
- The church will provide a boxed lunch and a bottle of water. A freewill offering will be received to offset the cost.

Do you wish to receive communion but are staying home for health reasons? Communion elements can also be brought to you at home—please call Pr. Kimberly at 724-283-2378 so she can speak with you about how best to do that.

Are you or anyone you know suffering particular stress with the quarantine? There is a listening ear available. Please call Pr. Kimberly on her cell phone or at the church office (724-283-2378) to arrange an appointment.

As you are able, please continue to support First English's ministry financially during this time. Your gifts allow our ministry to continue. You can mail offerings into the church office (241 N. Main Street, Butler PA 16001) or give online at <http://firstenglishbutler.org/giving/>.

PRAYERS

The family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, the family of Frances Cypher, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Edgart Nieto, Graham Cannon, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, Jim Templet, Gene and Myra Fozard, Cindy Regis & family, the family of Mildred Dollhopf, Sandy Snyder, David and Emma Lee Hartle, Edna Hartman, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Audrey Fleeger, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, the family of Jean Purvis, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Aryl Bashline, Kitty Walker, Hope & Bruce Keeler, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Exodus 1:8--2:10

Pharaoh's daughter takes Moses as her son

Psalm 124

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. (Ps. 124:7)

Romans 12:1-8

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith