

Service of the Word for the Home and for Zoom
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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). "In Thee Is Gladness"*

In Thee Is Gladness



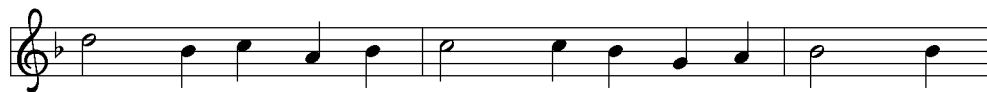
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
 2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
 in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ning to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

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: 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON *zoom/in person worship*

THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 114

Read responsively

¹Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

²**Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel God's dominion.**

³The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.

⁴**The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.**

⁵What ailed you, O sea, that you fled,
O Jordan, that you turned back,

⁶**you mountains, that you skipped like rams,
you little hills like young sheep?**

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸**who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

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.

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

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

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; ²⁵and, 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 *online*

APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION

With all the people of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. After each petition, the congregation may respond, “**Hear us and help us.**”

God of open arms, help us in these strange times to make Christ known in all that we do. Give wisdom to bishops, pastors, and deacons for their work. We especially remember Elizabeth and Kurt, our bishops, and Kimberly, our pastor. O God, you are full of compassion:

hear our prayer.

God of lands and seas, continue your care for your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we ask you to heal and renew your earth. Bring relief to states suffering from terrible wildfires, and sustain those who have lost much in the destruction. O God, you are full of compassion;

hear our prayer.

God of justice, lead the nations away from the ways of violence. Show families, neighborhoods, and nations how to welcome diversity while sharing common ground. Make the way for peace in Syria and Afghanistan. Save our nation from abuse and rancor during this election season. O God, you are full of compassion:

hear our prayer.

God of the sufferers, visit prisons and care homes with health and hope. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and provide safety to migrants. Protect firefighters and first responders. Heal the sick, especially those we name here before you (*a brief silence*)...O God, you are full of compassion;

hear our prayer.

God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted. Support medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. O God, you are full of compassion;

hear our prayer.

God of resurrection and new life, whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have led us in the faith. Hold us with them in your everlasting love. O God, you are full of compassion;

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

"NOW, LORD..." *read responsively*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared

in the sight of ev'ry people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, 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
Sandy Lefebvre	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Bob & Karen Domanski, Jan Nieto	Ushers
Jim & Jeanette Cunningham	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, 9/14	12:00 PM	NA Meeting
	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 9/15	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Thursday, 9/17	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir
Saturday, 9/12	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on Pastor Kimberly's office hours. With all of the life and school shifts because of the pandemic, Pr. Kimberly will be working from home one or two days a week. This week, she will be working at home on Wednesday, September 16. Fridays remain her regular day off.

New church office hours. Beginning this week, the church office hours will be: Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study will not meet on Thursday, September 17.

Christian Education begins September 13—outdoors at Lutherlyn! All Sunday school students are invited to meet at Dogwood Shelter from 11:30 to 1 p.m. on Sundays September 13, 27, October 4, 18 and 25. If you are in worship in person we will caravan out together. Please wear playclothes, outdoor shoes, and a mask. A bagged lunch will be available. Please RSVP to Sharon at sharonfelc@zoominternet.net.

Family Movie Night at Trinity Lutheran on Friday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. They will be showing the family movie Dolittle. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on. Because of COVID-19, they are asking all families to bring their own drinks and snacks and social distance your lawn chairs and blankets. The rain date will be Saturday, September 19.

Corn Hole Tournament – Fundraiser for Relay for Life: Trinity Lutheran is sponsoring a corn hole tournament on Saturday, October 3 at 1:00 p.m. Medals will be given to the winning team. If you are interested in participating, call Rhonda Pilarcik at 724-841-9170 or e-mail trinityliveofc@gmail.com with your team name, names of persons on your team (2 people), and an e-mail or phone number where you can be reached. The entrance fee is \$25.00 and it can be paid the day of the tournament. Some snacks and drinks will be provided. Social distancing will be practiced. Rain date for the tournament will be on Sunday, October 4 after the 10:00 a.m. service. This event is open to all ages!

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

Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Beth and Kevin, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, all those affected by the wildfires in California and Colorado, the family of Edgar Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, the family of Frances Cypher, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Graham Cannon, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, 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, 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 16:2-15

Manna and quails feed the Israelites in the wilderness

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (*Ps. 105:1, 45*)

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers