

Service of Holy Communion
13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 22, 2021
10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE	“Deux Versets”	- Jean Langlais
	“Diapason Movement”	- John Keeble
	“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”	- Charles Callahan, <i>arr.</i>

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to live forever. Give us at this moment your mercy, that we may confess our sin and receive your forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit or kneel.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“You Are the Way” sts. 1 & 2 Red Book #758

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem and put the ark of the covenant there. This passage includes part of the prayer Solomon prays at the dedication of the temple. He prays for the fulfillment of God's promises to David and for God to hear the prayers of all the faithful.

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.²³He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have

built! ²⁸Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84 *read responsively*

¹How dear to me is your dwelling,
O LORD of hosts!

**²My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where
she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

**⁴Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**⁶Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of
springs,**

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁷They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**⁸LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

⁹Behold our defender, O God;

and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tent of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts,

happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 6:56-69

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Are the Way" sts. 3 & 4 Red Book #758

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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

Lord, in your mercy,

The congregation responds:

Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes:

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LYRICAL DANCE “Gift of a Friend” - Amelia O’Rourke

The congregation may stand.

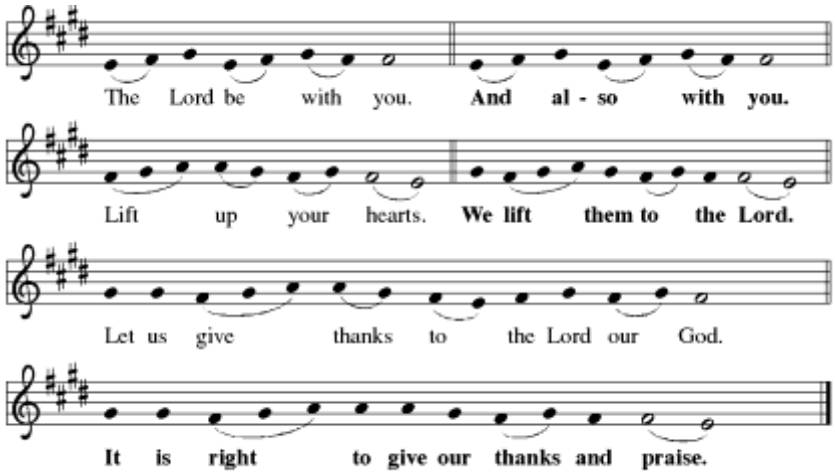
MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*...Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The congregation may be seated.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive; please keep 6 feet of distance between you and the next group of communicants. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

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 you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Blessed Assurance" Red Book #638

RECESSION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Verset" - Jean Langlais

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Susan Farrell	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Sue Morrow and Susan Farrell	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Carol Sawford, in loving memory of her husband, Brian Sawford, and his twin sister, Betty Sawford, and her father, Paul Kirkwood, on their birthday.

All are welcome to join us for social hour following the worship service.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 8/23	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 8/25	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)
Thursday, 8/26	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 8/27		Pr. Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 8/28	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 8/29	10:00 AM	Worship at First English followed by Picnic at Lutherlyn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Butler Hospital is now allowing pastoral visitation! If you are hospitalized and would like Pr. Kimberly to visit, please let the church office know.

First English has been invited to the **Downtown Elementary School Welcome Walk** on the first day of school. We've been invited to cheer on students from Broad Street and Emily Brittain Elementary schools as

they start a new school year on Thursday, August 26th. Meet Pr. Kimberly at First English at 8:15 a.m. then we'll walk to one of the cheer routes. This is a great, safe, and easy way to encourage our neighborhood kids and their schools.

Hooray – Lutherlyn VBS was a lot of fun and discovery! Thank you to all who supported us through food, drinks, money, volunteering, and prayers. Next, Lutherlyn Sunday School!

Join Us for a Picnic next Sunday, August 29th! Worship will be at First English, then we will gather at the Dogwood Shelter at Lutherlyn for a picnic and swimming! Meat, beverage, and place settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Sign-up in the Social Hall or contact the church office (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net.

Social Hour Hosts are Needed! If you would like to volunteer to be a host during our social hour after worship, please sign-up on the sheet in the Social Hall.

The Butler VA needs clothing, socks, and shoes to help the Voluntary Services department keep up with the growing demand. Because of Covid, they are only able to accept donations of new items. Their greatest need is for plus-sized men's and women's clothing (XXL and up). Items can be brought to the church and Karen Cranmer will deliver them to the VA.

Social distancing markers have been removed from the two central sections of pews. Please reserve the far right (pulpit side) section of pews for those who wish to mask and keep social distance. Thank you!

PRAYERS

Mia Gill, Claude and all the soldiers who have been recently deployed to Kuwait as well as their families, Eleanor Roth, Joe Roudebush, Joe and Linda, Dave Konesni, Raymond Sawyer, Donna, the family of Rita Wagner, the family of Carol Duffus, Judy O. and family, Graham Cannon, Anne Ferguson, Claudia, Karen, Anita, Joyce Hall, Kitty Walker, Nancy Hoehn, Tad & Shirley Sellers, Aryl Bashline, Jenna, Tom Olson, Pam Patterson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Song of two lovers

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

God has anointed you with the oil of gladness. (Ps. 45:7)

James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion