

Service of Holy Communion
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021
10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

- “The Will of God Is Always Best” - Johann Erasmus Kindermann
“He Folds and Guides Me” - Gilbert M. Martin
“It Is in You, O Christ, That We Are Reconciled” - G. Norbet and
M.D. Callahan

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The congregation may kneel or sit.

To you, O God,
**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you,
confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in
your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in
justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our
Savior.
Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the
death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins.
The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep
you in eternal life.
Amen.

The congregation may stand or sit.

GATHERING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” sts. 1 & 4 Red Book #834

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. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING Proverbs 1:20-33

In these verses Wisdom is personified as a woman who invites all who will listen to follow her. Though Wisdom offers her hand to those who scoff at her, they spurn all such counsel. That they come to ruin is predictable. Those who find Wisdom, however, find life.

²⁰Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.

²¹At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

²²"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?"

²³Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

²⁴Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

²⁵and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,

²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,
²⁷when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
²⁸Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
²⁹Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
³⁰would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
³²For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 *read responsively*

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about
to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?**

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not
get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a

fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get

behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

sts. 1, 4 & 5

Red Book #798

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.

God, our strength, our fortress, and our hope:

Help us, your church, to seek the well-being that comes from dying to ourselves and rising to live in you. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help us when we speak, that we may know that Christ is in the ear of all who hear us. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Help all in this country to live in peace with one another and in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Help those who suffer trauma from September 11, 2001, to find compassion and stillness: bereaved families and friends, first responders, and all survivors. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help those who are sick, injured, or at their wits end in any way to find healing and rest. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help those who heal—aid workers, health workers, researchers, therapists, and social workers—to find wisdom for their work. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help us, when death draws near, to sing alleluias at the grave. We give thanks for Shirley and for all others who have gone before us who are on our hearts and minds.... Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God, in your wisdom is life and under your guidance there is perfect freedom. We lift up these and all our prayers to you in the name of the risen Jesus.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Rise Up, My Soul!” - Lloyd Larson

The congregation may stand.

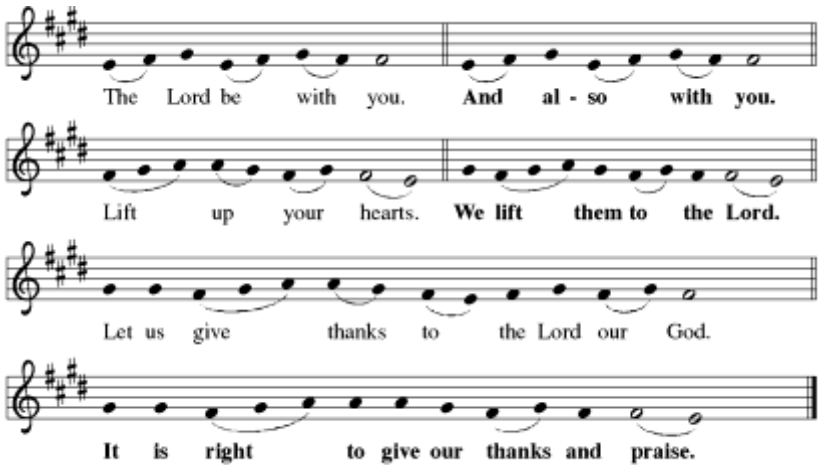
MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: '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.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets... *(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)* ...As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

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. Come to the table, for all is now ready.

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

attributed to St. Francis

Let us pray:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" Red Book #808

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Was Gott thut, das ist wohlgethan" -J.G. Walther

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bill and Judy Vilcheck	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry and Mollie Hibbs,
in memory of Terry L. Hibbs.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 9/13	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday, 9/14	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 9/15	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)
Thursday, 9/16	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 9/17		Pr. Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 9/18	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we welcome Pr. Ryan Fitch, First English's new pastor in residence, as our preacher and presiding minister. Pr. Fitch's primary call is to Camp Lutherlyn as assistant director. Welcome, Pr. Ryan. We are glad that you are here!

We mourn with the friends and family of Shirley Sellers, who died in resurrection hope on September 5, 2021. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her. Condolences may be sent to: Tad Sellers at 134 Marwood Rd. Room 1802 Cabot, PA 16023.

Today's prayer after communion is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Well-loved for generations, the words of this prayer draw us deeply into God's ministry of peacebuilding. We use it today as the United States remembers the twentieth anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Sundays @ Lutherlyn begin September 19, at the Dogwood Shelter at Camp Lutherlyn. Our theme for the fall is Living in God's Time.

11:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch and Learning for all kids ages 3- 5th grade;
confirmation for 6th-8th graders

1:00 - 1:25 p.m. Service of Holy Communion for all

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

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

The friends and family of Shirley Sellers; family and friends of Barbara Petanovich and Curtis Wilbert; friend of the Swansons, Don, Betty and family, 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 Sellers, Aryl Bashline, Jenna, Tom Olson, Pam Patterson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-31

Poem celebrating the capable wife

Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom from above

Mark 9:30-37

Prediction of the passion