

Service of Holy Communion
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021
10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Holy, Holy” from Danish Amen Mass - Russell Schulz-Widmar
“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray” - Johann Christian Kittel
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” - Michael Burkhardt, *arr.*

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal and forgive us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

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

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

sts. 1, 2 & 5

Red Book #533

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. Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

This book tells the story of Queen Esther, who saves her people, the Jews, from the murderous schemes of Haman, advisor to the Persian king, her husband.

Haman is hanged on the gallows he constructed for Esther’s cousin Mordecai, and the Jews celebrate the feast of Purim to commemorate this victory over their enemies.

¹[King Ahasuerus] and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who

is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124 *read responsively*

¹If the LORD had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;

²**if the LORD had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us,**

³then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;

⁴**then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;**

⁵then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.

⁶**Blessed be the LORD
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸**Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

SECOND READING James 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” sts. 1, 4, 5 & 6 Red Book #719

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Gracious God, your Son called us to follow the way of the cross. Under its sign, we pray that the way we conduct our lives may not cause others to question the goodness of God, and that we may welcome opportunities to show love and compassion in difficult circumstances. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority, especially school superintendents, our county commissioners, Kim, Kevin, and Leslie, and all those who are preparing to run for public office. Give them passion for the truth and a right judgment in all things. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose lives are disrupted by the ongoing pandemic: those at Butler Hospital who experience the daily stresses of caring for the sick, those who have had surgeries or treatment postponed, those who depend on public transport in our city, those who work for restaurants and school systems, and all others whom we do not see or notice but who are known to you. Help us all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, ushers, assisting ministers, and technology ministers. Guide us as we restart our children's church. Bless us through their service, and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words"
- David Haas, *arr.*

The congregation may stand.

MEAL

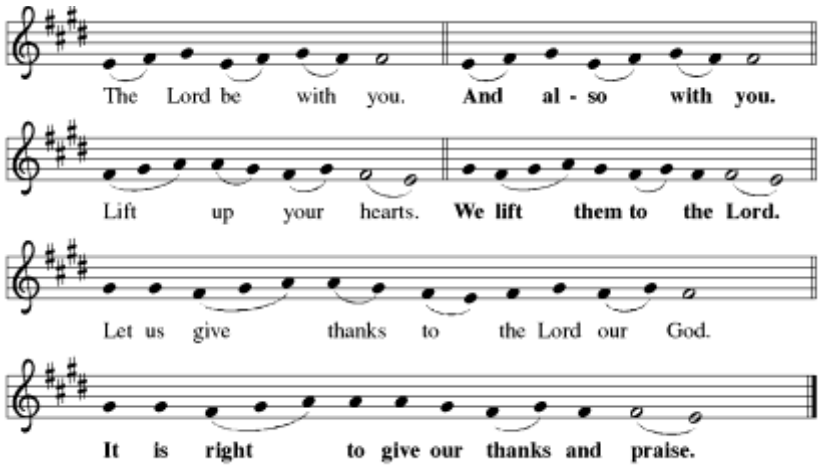
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

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

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Red Book #631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" - Alec Wyton, *arr.*

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Amy Beiler	Reader
Dan Morrow	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Jack and Amy Beiler	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry Hamil, in memory of his beloved mother, Mildred Kathryn Montgomery Hamil.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 9/27	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 9/29	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)
Thursday, 9/30	10:30 AM	Bible Study

	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 10/1		Pr. Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 10/2	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's church will return to First English next week, Sunday, October 3. This aspect of worship allows children under age 10 to experience the scripture readings in ways that are appropriate for them.

Sundays@Lutherlyn continue for all children age 3 - confirmation age next week, October 3. WE WILL BE AT THE OCTOGON SHELTER (on the other side of the road from the Dogwood Shelter). *Please RSVP to Sharon at sharonfelc@zoominternet.net if your child plans to attend.*

Worship will be held outdoors at Lutherlyn on October 17th at 10:00 a.m. Please keep your eyes peeled for details!

St. Faustina Parish is offering an Oktoberfest take-out dinner at St. Christopher Church in Prospect on Saturday, Oct. 9th from 3 – 6 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

The Pelgrin and Buehler family; Jean Morrow; families of Joan Chew, Henry Sinopoli, and Mark Grossman; family of Shirley Sellers; family 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

Job 1:1-1; 2:1-10

Job's integrity in the face of suffering

Psalm 26

Your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

God has spoken by a Son

Mark 10:2-16

Teaching on marriage

Dear Friends in Christ,

At its September meeting, the church council reviewed our current coronavirus protocols. As some of you are aware, the covid trends for Butler County have reached very high transmission levels. Hospitalizations have increased to the point where Butler Memorial Hospital is under strain and where Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh has had to expand its emergency department. These kinds of stresses affect our whole community.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love and care for our neighbors, whether they are well known to us or whether they are part of the wider community. With this in mind, the council has adopted the following changes:

- Re-instituting social distancing in the sanctuary between pews;
- Suspending refreshments at social hour;
- Requesting that everyone who can wear a mask please wear one at Sunday worship (please note that the CDC recommends that everyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, wear a mask while attending indoor gatherings);
- Requiring masks in the church office;
- Changing communion practices so that those who wish to keep physical distance when they receive the sacrament can be assured of doing so.

As a reminder, please note that pews on the far-right side of the sanctuary (pulpit side) are reserved for those worshippers who are

wearing masks throughout the service over their nose and mouth and who wish to be seated with those who also are wearing masks.

We are all tired of this pandemic and we know that patience is growing thin. But blessedly, God never tires of giving us the strength, the wisdom, and the love to continue. God's patience with us endures.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Kimberly van Driel

Marlin Boltz