

Service of Holy Communion
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021
10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE “O Lord We Praise You” - Heinrich Scheidemann
 “Pour light upon us from above, ...” - George Oldroyd

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

“All People That On Earth Do Dwell” sts. 1 & 2

Red Book #883

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. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

The sayings in the book of Proverbs impart the collective wisdom of centuries. Speaking of wealth and poverty, these particular verses teach that those who are blessed by God should honor the poor, for they are within God's special care.

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

²The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 125 *read responsively*

¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

²**The mountains surround Jerusalem;
so you surround your people, O LORD, from this time forth
forevermore.**

³The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to
the just,

so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

⁴**Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good
and to those who are true of heart.**

⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will lead them
away with the evildoers;

but peace be upon Israel.

SECOND READING **James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point

has become accountable for all of it. [11For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 7:24-37

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

24[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape

notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All People That On Earth Do Dwell" sts. 3 & 4 Red Book #883

AFFIRMATION OF THE MARRIAGE OF JIM AND JEANETTE CUNNINGHAM

Following the affirmation of vows, the congregation offers acclamation:

Jim and Jeanette, in the presence of God and this congregation,

affirm and give thanks for their life together as husband and wife.
Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with Jim and Jeannette,
will you continue to support and care for them
sustain and pray for them in times of trouble,
give thanks with them in times of joy,
honor the bonds of their covenant,
and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

We will.

Following the blessing, the service continues with the prayers.

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 of grace and God of glory: uphold all those who work in the church,
especially our bishops, Kurt and Elizabeth; our pastors, Kimberly and
Ryan, and all those who volunteer their time in your service. Give them
patience in this time of disruption. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty Fortress, protect the world from tyranny and violence; guide our
elected officials; look with mercy on the people of Afghanistan; protect
refugees from further trauma and provide welcome for them. Hear us, O
God: **Your mercy is great.**

Hope of the world, preserve us from storms, wildfires, and flood, and
help all who suffer loss in their aftermath. Today, we lift up all who were
in the path of Hurricane Ida. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Fountain of every blessing, sustain all married couples in the keeping of
their vows. In difficulties, be their source of forgiveness and strength;
and in good times, let them not forget you as the source of joy. Hear us,
O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Healer of our every ill, for those who are suffering we pray: heal those
who are ill or injured; embrace those with mental illness; open up
opportunities for persons who are deaf; and hear our cries for those we
name here...*silence*... Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Mothering God, strong to save, for the grace shown to our ancestors in the faith, we praise you. Bring us with all your saints, especially Barbara and Curtis, to the hope of your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

OFFERTORY

Voluntary – D Major – William Croft

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: ourselves, 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" Red Book #879

RECESSION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Grosser Gott" - Michael Sullivan

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Mollie Hibbs	Crucifer
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Stan Graff and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 9/6 <i>Labor Day</i>	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 9/8		<i>Office Closed</i>
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)
Thursday, 9/9	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 9/10		Pr. Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 9/11	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate with Jim and Jeanette Cunningham as they affirm their marriage vows in worship today and as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Many blessings, Jim and Jeanette!

Pastor Kimberly is out of the office September 7, 8, and 9 for a continuing education retreat.

There will be no Thursday morning Bible study on September 9.

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.

PRAYERS

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 & Shirley Sellers, Aryl Bashline, Jenna, Tom Olson, Pam Patterson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom's rebuke to the foolish

Psalm 19

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

James 3:1-12

Dangers of the unbridled tongue

Mark 8:27-38

Peter's confession of faith