

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
9th Sunday of Pentecost
July 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Prelude in Classic Style"	- Gordon Young
"Strengthen for Service"	- Friedrich W. Marpurg
"O God, Thou Faithful God"	- J. S. Bach

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, † one
God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting in God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

The congregation may kneel as desired.

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children,

the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses,

and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.

By your grace draw us near to you,

our refuge and our strength;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Christ died for us while we were still sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

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.

GLORIA

page 121 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in

place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136 *read responsively*

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the

sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Red Book #775

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

Led by the Spirit, who searches our minds and hearts, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need:

Gracious God, we need your help in every hour of our lives. Teach us to look for you in the midst of our daily life and work and to have no other desire than to live in response to your love. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Your servant Solomon asked for wisdom and vision. We ask for the same wisdom for those who lead our community and our nation. We lift up to you those who must make especially challenging decisions on immigration, use of technology, and foreign policy. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

In his teaching your Son lifted up every scribe trained for the kingdom of heaven. We lift up before you those scholars and professors that teach in seminaries and other schools of the church, as they guide others in a faith that seeks understanding. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We plead for help for our community. Lord, there are many who are hungry, many who are desperate for housing and health care, and many who are sick. We ask you to sustain those who work for our community dinner ministry as we try to respond to rising numbers of hurting people. Give to all of us what you see we need. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Help us to be present to others who suffer in crisis or disaster. When we need to speak, give us words that speak of your never-failing love, and guard our lips from speaking false cliches or cheap comforts. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

You promise that Jesus' story will also be our story. Give us such trust in his risen life that we may commend all our griefs, our longings, and even the names of our beloved dead to you in hope. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We offer these prayers to You, Gracious God, trusting in your mercy. Where our words have fallen short of all that you would have us ask, hear the interceding of your Spirit's sighs. These things we ask in the name of Jesus your Son.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Publican"

- Beardsley Van De Water

Linda Mathias, *soloist*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"

Red Book #691

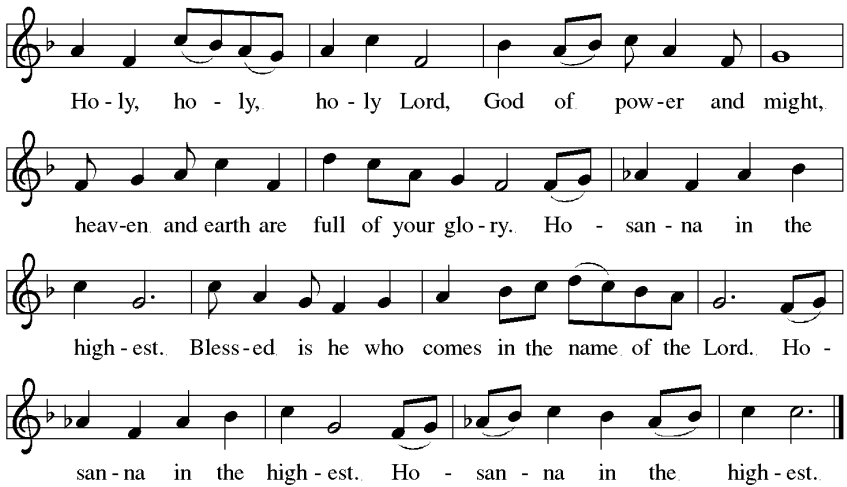
OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

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....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and hearth....(*The presiding minister continues giving thanks*)....

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

The prayers conclude:

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,

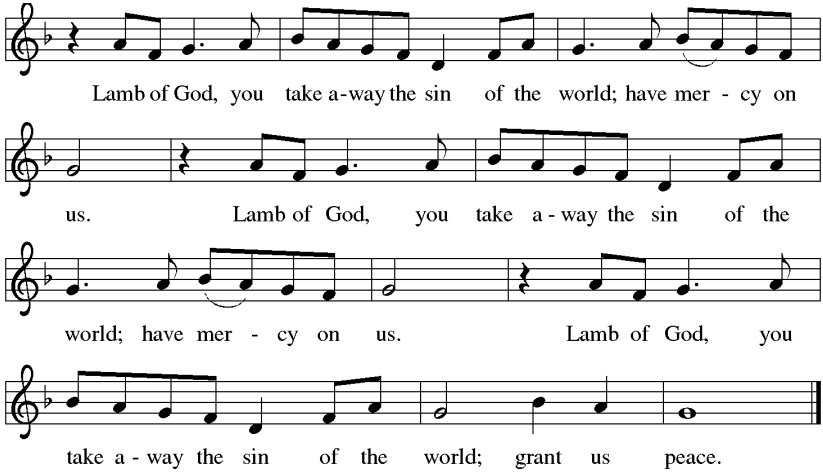
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, Christ gives us a foretaste of that day when all creation will be healed, all people will be forgiven, and all. Here in bread and wine are his body and blood, enough for everyone. Come to his table!

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.

The congregation may sit.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT *shared at the center aisle*

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. 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Brother James' Air"


- Larry Shackley, *arr.*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *led by the assisting minister*

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

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

Red Book #871

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Allegretto"

- Johann Schulze

"Moderato"

- Gabriel Voigtlander

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Lois Trimbur	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Susan Farrell	Reader
Lois Trimbur	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

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

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 7/31	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 8/3	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 8/5	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 8/6	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Zoom Worshipers! Pr. Kimberly will be hosting a zoom coffee hour following the postlude. If you'd like to join, please give us a few minutes to get set up (this is a chance for you to get up and make a cup of coffee, if desired), and then there will be time for greetings and conversation.

Synod Youth Day at Lutherlyn & Kickoff for 2024 National Youth Gathering Planning on Sunday, August 20th from 3:00- 7:00 p.m. Join

SWPA & NWPA Synod youth (7th – 12th grade) and adult leaders for a Sunday afternoon gathering at Lutherlyn. There will also be a time for the adults to meet about planning for the 2024 National Youth Gathering. Are you interested? Let Pr. Kimberly know at pkfelc@zoominternet.net.

Support First English's ministry: In thanksgiving to God, financial contributions to the congregation can be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space or made online at www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving.



PRAYERS

The family of Carl Devore; Marj Rogner; Lindsey Shuster; Bill Brown; Linda and Joe Randig; James Carlantonio; family of Jamie McPoyle; Marc Fogel; Jeff Acord; Lida Mason; Rob Mertha; Gregory Reeder; Kirsten Schaney; Gus Keiser; Renee; Liam Cirillo; Lucas; Jonathan Peterson; Maread Magee; Alysia Shaffer; Donny Bayless; Rose Cooper; Sue Lehew; Beth Weber; family of Madaline Golic; family of Joyce Mitchel; Ann Johnson; Jeff Turner; family of Ryan Glagola; family of Pete Huff; Mary & Steve and foster children; Janice Krause; Dave Adams; Tracy Steadman; family of Paul Throm; Jim Cunningham; Gracie Love; Thelma

Hassler; family of David Hartle; family of Chris Holman; family of Hazel Warheit; 6-month-old baby girl in Ohio; Karen Knepp; Tony Sequite; Brian Salisbury; Mark Vogel & family; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Stan Graff; Aryl Bashline; Patrick Frank; Holly Schubert; Ellen Dodge; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-5

Eat and drink that which truly satisfies

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Romans 9:1-5

The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21

Christ feeding five thousand

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola

September 2023 – Early May 2024

1-Hour Group Meetings: Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

120 Sunset Drive, Butler

What is it?

The Spiritual Exercises are a compilation of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius Loyola to help people deepen their relationship with God. The Exercises in Everyday Life are designed to be completed over a 9-month timeframe. Trained Spiritual Directors (Kathy and Al Yarzebinski) will guide weekly small group meetings at Trinity Lutheran.

How will it work?

Each week, participants will receive materials containing scripture and other compositions to read and pray with on a daily basis. Once per week the group will meet for a time of faith sharing, deep listening and reflection.

What are the commitments?

Participants agree to pray with the materials for at least ½ hour every day and meeting once per week, realizing that life circumstances may interrupt on occasion. The materials and weekly guidance are free; however, the Yarzebinskis are asking for a donation of \$300 to the Pneuma Institute to promote the training of spiritual directors and leaders. (Note: If you feel that cost is a barrier for participating, please speak to Pastor Kimberly.)

I think I'm interested, but I need more information.

Pastor Kimberly completed the Spiritual Exercises during her recent sabbatical and is happy to answer questions about the experience. Specific questions about Trinity's program can be directed to Pr. Joel Benson at 724-287-1977 or trinityalivepb@gmail.com. The website <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/> (click on the heading *Ignatian Prayer*) also has good information.

I'm ready! How do I sign up?

That's awesome! Just let Pr. Joel Benson from Trinity Lutheran know at the contact information listed above.

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