

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
12th Sunday of Pentecost
August 20, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

- Kevin Hildebrand

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

- James Coe

“Voluntary”

- Samuel Priestly Taylor

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

“All Are Welcome”

Red Book #641

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. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those
who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world
with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known
throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent
intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the
Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67 *read responsively*

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on
earth.**
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:21-28

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Red Book #588

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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Gracious God, you promised through the prophet Isaiah to accept the offerings of all people. Transform the church in the United States by opening us to the perspectives of Christians from other places as we all seek to follow Jesus. In your mercy,

Hear us and help us.

You judge all people with equity and desire that we live together in peace. Help our country, made up of people from many cultures, live in ways that heal historical divisions and promote the flourishing of all people. In your mercy,

Hear us and help us.

Sometimes it seems as though our prayers are answered without one word. Hear our prayers for those who have grown weary in praying, that their faith in you would be seen and your love extended. In your mercy,

Hear us and help us.

We beg you to help those in great need at this hour: for the people of Lahaina, Hawaii, for parents of desperately ill children, especially those who suffer from psychiatric illness, for all who are sick, for those in prison, and for those who are dying. In your mercy,

Hear us and help us.

Your Son, in his humanity, also had to grow in order to understand your unfolding will. Help our congregation be grounded in your purpose for us and open to new ideas and possibilities as we serve Christ in this place. In your mercy,
Hear us and help us.

At the end of time you will join us with people of all tribes, nations, and languages before your throne. Increase our hope that we will join you with our loved ones and those whom we do not yet know in your eternal kingdom. In your mercy,
Hear us and help us.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant, Gracious God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.
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

“Hymn Medley”

- Heather and Bryan Helsel

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

Red Book #691

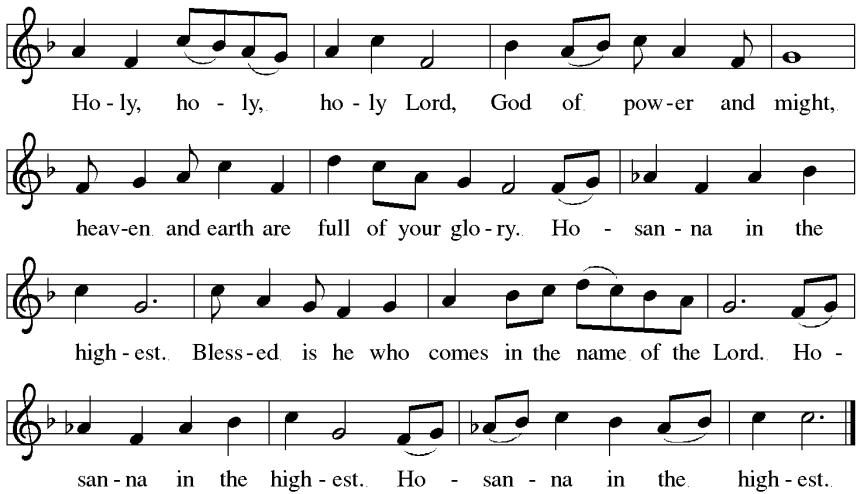
OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

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.**

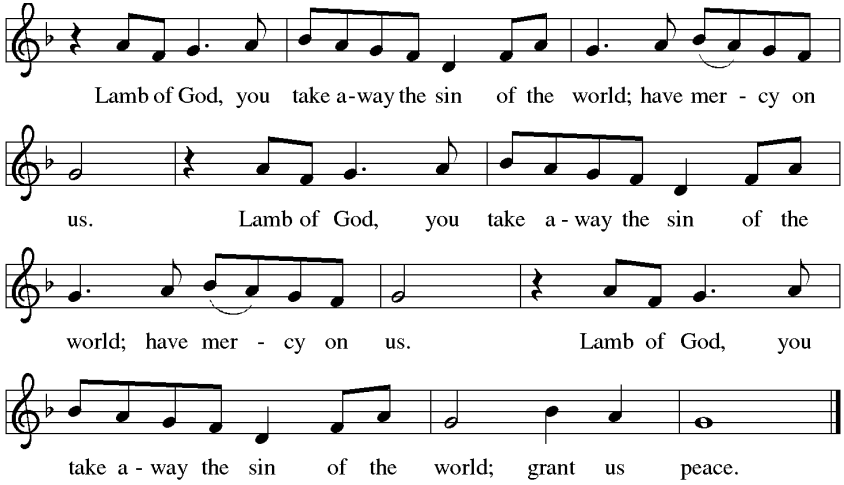
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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 rail*


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.

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 ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared 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

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Red Book #545

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Was mein Gott will, gescheh allzeit"

- Carl Steinhäuser

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Larry Hamil	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Joseph and Pat Zupancic,
in loving memory of Anna Anderson.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 8/21	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 8/23	3:30 – 9 PM	Strengthening Families (Social Hall)
Thurs., 8/24	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 8/26	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 8/27	10:00 AM	Worship & Picnic at Alameda Park
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Synod Youth Day at Lutherlyn & Kickoff for 2024 National Youth Gathering Planning today 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.

Please Sign Up in the Social Hall if you plan to attend the picnic next week!



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

Beth Chambers; Eileen Herbeck; family of Linda Hibbeler; Frank Morrow; family of Sandy Snyder; Meghan; 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; 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 51:1-6

The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalm 138

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Romans 12:1-8

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

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LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
U.S. WILDFIRES

AUGUST 2023

ELCA.org/dlsaster

Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to

assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077
 Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "*U.S. wildfires*" or "*Where needed most*" on your check's memo line.



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