

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
13th Sunday of Pentecost
August 27, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Land of Rest”

- Setting /Wilbur Held

“Gather Us In”

- John A. Behnke, *arr.*

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GATHERING HYMN (*next page*)

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

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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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 *read responsively*

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.

**⁸You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works of your hands.**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in

exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father

in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
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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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Loving God, amidst the noise of age, we pray for the church. Give us grace to quiet our restless minds and hearts so that we can listen to your voice, discern your will, and be open to your Spirit's leading. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for peace: peace for Ukraine and Russia, peace in the Holy Land, peace in Yemen, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia, and peace in the streets and homes of our own land. Help those who live through war hold on to hope. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who are most on our minds today, for those who are sick, for those who are lonely, for married couples experiencing discord and distress, for those in financial stress, for communities recovering from disaster, especially Maui, Southern California, and Greece. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We pray in thanksgiving for the gift of Alameda Park, for the land and plants that surround us, for the people who care for and clean this shelter, and for all who have worked hard to allow us to come together today. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We pray for students and teachers at the start of this school year. Encourage those who are anxious, protect those who are vulnerable, magnify your kindness and compassion through those who are confident, and surround them all with your unconditional love. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

As we join together today around food, we remember your promise of a feast with no more tears and no more crying. Even as we mourn those who have died, give us today a glimmer of the joy you have prepared for your future with us. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"We Come To The Hungry Feast"

– Ylvisaker

Pr. Michael Robinson, guitar and vocal

OFFERTORY HYMN

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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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.

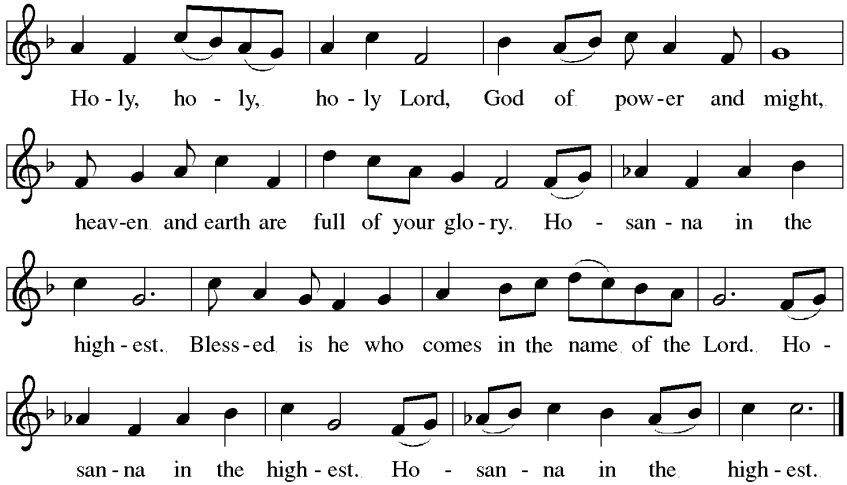


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

Taste and see 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.

The congregation may sit.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *(next page)*

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A7 D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4
 Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

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LAFFERTY
 irregular

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*

BLESSING OF PICNIC MEAL

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 *(next page)*

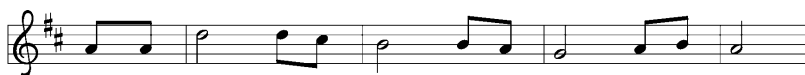
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

- 2 *Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route;*
Jésus, je voudrais que ma voix soit l'écho de ta joie,
et que chante la terre et que chante le ciel;
Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route.
- 3 *Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route,*
Jésus, je voudrais partager les souffrances de ta croix,
car tu livres pour moi et ton corps et ton sang;
Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route.
- 4 *Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route,*
entendre tes pas résonner dans la nuit près de moi,
jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé,
Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue”

- Robert J. Powell

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Signe Mitchell	Keyboardist
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell and Jan Nieto	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Please join us for a picnic following the worship service!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 8/28	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 8/30	3:30-9:00 PM	Strengthening Families (Social Hall)
Thurs., 8/31	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/2	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/3	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor’s Office)
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study will begin a series on the Gospel of John starting Thursday, September 7th at 10:30 a.m. All women are invited to join us! Questions? Talk to Pr. Kimberly.

Save the Date for our first Fall Faith Formation Intergenerational Event on September 17th at social hour following worship!

The Welcome Reception for the Choir has been postponed until further notice. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, August 31st at 7 pm as scheduled.

The prayer list will be refreshed on Sunday, September 10th. If you would like to keep someone on the prayer list, please let the church office know by Wednesday, September 6th.

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.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
July 16-20, 2024
New Orleans

Students must be in 8th - 12th grades at the time of registration (Fall 2023) to attend

A Young Adult Gathering will be offered alongside the Youth Gathering and is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 35.

Priority registration rates for both events will be available from September 15th until November 1st.

CREATED TO BE

For more information, please talk to Pr. Kimberly!

PRAYERS

Marlin and Karen Boltz; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8

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

Romans 12:9-21

Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28

The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

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