

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  
September 3, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Red Book #879

## 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. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## THE WORD

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING      **Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;

remember me and visit me,

and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;

know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy

and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 26:1-8**

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

**4I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**  
5I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
6**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**  
7singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
8**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## **SECOND READING Romans 12:9-21**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

9Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

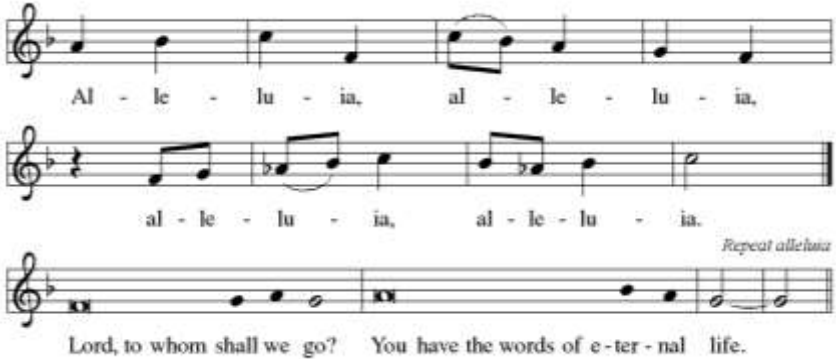
14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for

their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

**SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      *(next page)*

## Hope of the World



1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,  
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us  
5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.  
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:  
show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:  
from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:  
who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:



Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;  
we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.  
lure us a - way from you to end - less night.  
work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.  
you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: DONNE SECOURS, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, your Son challenges us to make our goal life with you, even when that comes at the cost of suffering and rejection in this world.

Help us to discern his call in our daily circumstances and to walk in integrity as his disciples. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, give endurance to those who suffer loss in the wake of Hurricane Idalia. Surround them with generous neighbors and effective leaders. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good.

Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict, especially Niger, Syria, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Russia.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, oppressed, or in pain. We remember especially those who have been terrorized by gun violence and racist hatred. Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**



God of consolation, we name in our hearts those who need a special measure of your wholeness and healing.....Give all you see that they need. Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks on this Labor Day weekend for the many ways by which we can serve you in our daily lives and we pray for those who labor, that they may have safe working conditions, fair compensation, and opportunity for rest. Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through 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.*

#### **ORGAN OFFERTORY**

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

Red Book #691

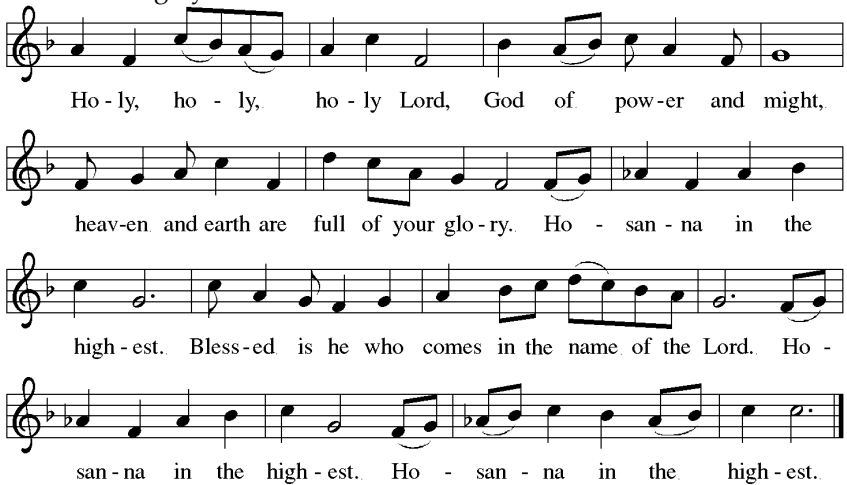
**OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

## 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


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

“This Is My Father’s World”

Red Book #824

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Mollie Hibbs	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Christiaan van Driel	<b>Crucifer</b>
Claudia van Driel	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Melody Kamerer	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*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., 9/4 <b>Labor Day</b>		No Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 9/6	3:30-9:00 PM	Strengthening Families (Social Hall)
Thurs., 9/7	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/9	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/10	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor’s Office)

	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We mourn with the family of Janet Warner**, who died in resurrection hope on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

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

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

**Save the Date!** Join us during social hour following worship on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for our first Fall Faith Formation Intergenerational Event—*A Seed Story* (Matthew 13:1-9). Hope to see you there!

**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](http://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.



For more information,  
please talk to Pr. Kimberly!

**PRAYERS**

The family of Janet Warner; Marlin 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**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*The prophet's responsibility to warn the people*

**Psalm 119:33-40**

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

**Romans 13:8-14**

*Live honorably as in the day*

**Matthew 18:15-20**

*Reconciliation in the community of faith*

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