

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
15th Sunday of Pentecost
September 10, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”

- Johann Ludwig Krebs

“Vater unser im Himmelreich”

- Georg Philip Telemann

“Veni creator spiritus”

- Raymond Widner

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.

Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Red Book #836

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 195 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the

wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 *read responsively*

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING **Romans 13:8-14**

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay

aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If

the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Red Book #470

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

God has reconciled us to himself and to one another through Jesus Christ. Trusting in his mercy, let us pray for peace and reconciliation on every level of our common life.

For this congregation, that you would give us the grace and wisdom needed to live as an intentional and responsible Christian community.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For grace to let go of the grudges we carry, and for the willingness to receive correction, and for the wisdom to deal with problems directly,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For freedom from greed and the desire for unjust gain, so that all may share of the earth's abundance, Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For daily renewal and rest for those whose work leads them into traumatic and tragic situations, especially firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For peace among nations and ethnic groups, especially between the United States and China, Russia and Ukraine, Armenians and Azerbaijanis, Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who experience injury, illness, or addiction, that they may experience healing in body, mind, and spirit, and that they may be surrounded always by a supportive community. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For all of those who encounter the power of death this day, that they may be comforted by knowing that nothing separates us from your love.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Where Two or Three Are Gathered” - John Purifoy
(Matthew 18:20)

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING HYMN

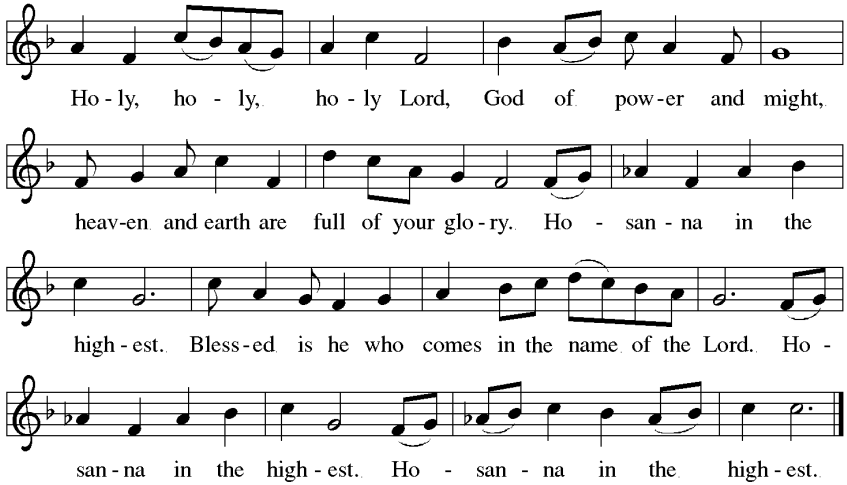
“Now the Silence” Red Book #460

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.

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying, your mercy endures forever. (*The presiding minister continues giving thanks*).... With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The prayers conclude:

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, 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 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.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“A Cup of Rejoicing”

- Wilbur Held

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

"Earth and All Stars!"

Red Book #731

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O Word of God, Incarnate”

- setting / David Cherwien

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| The Rev. Kimberly van Driel | Presiding Minister |
| Sandy Lefebvre | Assisting Minister |
| Jim Cunningham | Communion Assistant |
| Chuck McMichael | Reader |
| Sandy Lefebvre | Crucifer |
| Reese Sequite | Acolyte |
| Signe Mitchell | Organist |
| Harry Cunningham | Sr. Choir Director |
| Josh Kamerer | AV Assisting Minister |
| Joan Giese | PowerPoint Minister |
| Dan Morrow, Stan Graff, Christiaan van Driel, Andrew O'Rourke, Amelia O'Rourke | Ushers |
| Karen and Bob Domanski | Counters |
| Roxanne Glagola | Altar Guild |

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Carol Sawford in loving memory of her husband, Brian Sawford, and his twin sister, Betty Sawford, and her father, Paul Kirkwood, on their birthdays in August.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

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| Mon., 9/11 | 5:00 PM | Community Dinner |
| | 8:00 PM | NA Meeting (Social Hall) |
| Tues., 9/12 | 7:00 PM | Council Meeting |
| Wed., 9/13 | 9:30 AM | Worship Committee Meeting |
| | 11:00 AM | Staff Meeting |
| | 3:30-9:00 PM | Strengthening Families (Social Hall) |
| Thurs., 9/14 | 10:30 AM | Bible Study (Downstairs) |
| | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sat., 9/16 | 12:00 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sun., 9/17 | 9:00 AM | Bible Study (Pastor's Office) |
| | 11:15 AM | Intergenerational Faith Formation |

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|--|---------|-------------------------|
| | 5:30 PM | AA Meeting (Downstairs) |
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Class will meet following the service today (September 10) downstairs in the catechism room.

This Sunday, we begin learning (or re-learning) setting 9. This setting can be found in the front of the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, on pages 193-202. Today, we will learn the hymn of praise, "Glory to God." As the following weeks unfold, we will learn new parts of the service.

Join us next Sunday, September 17th during social hour following worship for our first Fall Faith Formation Intergenerational Event– *A Seed Story* (Matthew 13:1-9). Hope to see you there!

Where is God leading our Christian education program? Members of church council will be hosting focus groups to discuss First English's Christian education and faith formation program following worship on the following Sundays:

September 24th (2 separate groups – 1 for families/parents/grandparents currently raising young children and 1 for those who are interested in Christian education but do not have a child at home)

October 22nd (focus group for families with older children)

For background on these groups, please see Pr. Kimberly's front page letter in the September newsletter.

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.



For more information,
please talk to Pr. Kimberly!



PRAYERS

Mason Martin; family of Janet Warner; Eileen Herbeck; family of Linda Hibbeler; Marj Rogner; Tony Sequite; Thelma Hassler; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Aryl Bashline; Holly Schubert; Tad Sellers

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

Psalms 103: [1-7] 8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (*Ps. 103:8*)

Romans 14:1-12

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

Matthew 18:21-35

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

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