

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  
September 17, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Just As I Am”

- Anthony Giamanco

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

- Paul Manz

“Canzona”

- Robert W. Jones

**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**

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

Red Book #452

## **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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

#### **FIRST READING      Genesis 50:15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103: 1-13**      *read responsively*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits —**
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- <sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

**SECOND READING**    **Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow

slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

Red Book #605

## 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 reconciling presence, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

For all your servants throughout the world, that by your word we would forswear revenge and make repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation our way of life. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For those who have suffered great wrong and who find Jesus' command to forgiveness difficult, that You would surround them with the grace you see that they need. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For those facing the immense grief of natural disasters and their devastation: flooding in Libya, earthquake in Morocco, floods in Massachusetts, Typhoon Haikui in southern China, and those in the path of Hurricanes Lee and Margot, that You would give them all that they need. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For all facing financial insecurity and for those who shoulder debt, that you would shield them from greed and further burdens. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For renewed civility, grace, and commitment to the common good among political leaders and governments, especially in this land. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For doctors, therapists, counselors, social workers, and all mental health professionals and advocates, and for all who seek the arts of healing, especially those whom we name before you....Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For Jewish neighbors who are entering a season of holy days, especially our neighbors at Congregation B'nai Abraham, that their gatherings be safe and their time together a blessing. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We remember the lives of those who have gone before us, both those whom we loved easily and those whom we found difficult. Help us to

trust that one day, your forgiveness will be all in in all. 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

“Bless the Lord / 10,000 Reasons”

- Myrin & Redman

*The congregation may stand.*

#### OFFERTORY 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.

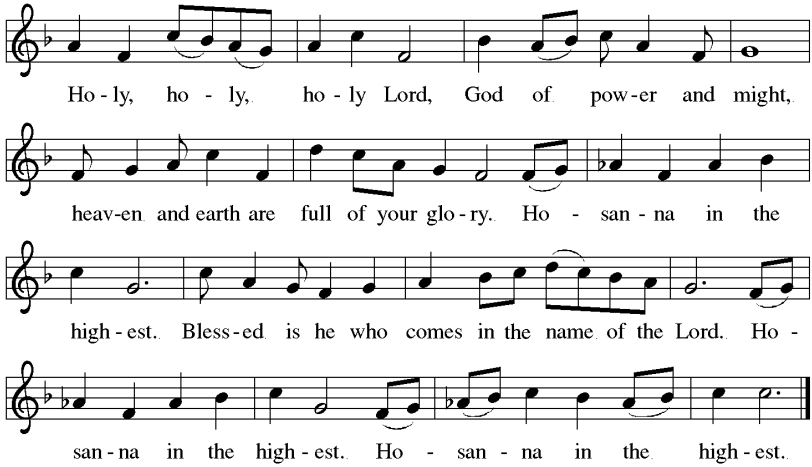
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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.*

**HYMN DURING COMMUNION** (next page)

## Before the Waters Nourished Earth



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
2 This Love re - main - ed as time re - vealed the loss of  
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - volve Love's  
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

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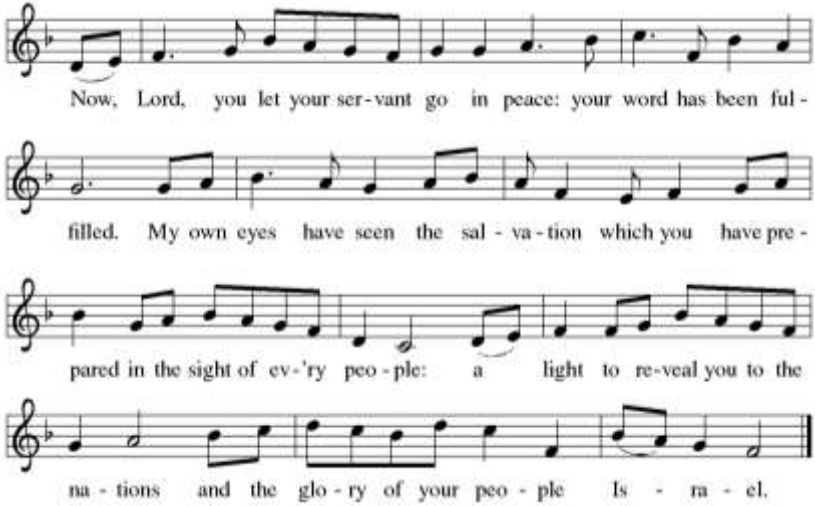
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## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

Red Book #624

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

- Paul Manz

#### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Assisting Minister</b>

Linda Mathias	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Larry Hamil	<b>Reader</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Crucifer</b>
Tucker Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Susan Farrell, Jan Nieto, and Christiaan van Driel	<b>Ushers</b>
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	<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 the Intergenerational Faith Formation event following the worship service.*

#### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Mon., 9/18	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 9/20	3:30-9:00 PM	Strengthening Families (Social Hall)
Thurs., 9/21	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/23	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/24	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This Sunday, we continue 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 during social hour** following worship today for our first Fall Faith Formation Intergenerational Event– *A Seed Story* (Matthew 13:1-9).

**Reminder: To be included in the October newsletter**, announcements must be sent to Caitlyn by Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 24<sup>th</sup>* (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 22<sup>nd</sup>* (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](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving).

### **PRAYERS**

Will; Carol Chamberlain; Carol Johnson; 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; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

#### **Psalms 145:1-8**

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

#### **Philippians 1:21-30**

*Standing firm in the gospel*

#### **Matthew 20:1-16**

*The parable of the vineyard workers*

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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!



JOIN FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
AND EMILY BRITAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR

# *Socktober 2023*

THIS OCTOBER, LET'S HELP OUR COMMUNITY AGAIN BY  
COLLECTING NEW SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, AND GLOVES  
FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

**KIDS' SIZES SMALL-XXL OR 4-16**

**(GREATEST NEEDS ARE UNDERWEAR IN SMALLER SIZES  
AND SOCKS IN LARGER SIZES)**

