

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  
October 8, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Allegro”

- John Stanley

“Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux”

- Nicolas De Grigny

**WELCOME**

*The congregation may stand.*

**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.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GATHERING HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Red Book #803

## 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. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## THE WORD

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### FIRST READING      **Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,

but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80: 7-15**      *read responsively*

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;**

**you cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.

<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;**

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

## **SECOND READING    Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made

me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my

son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:  
‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

Red Book #727

## 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.

Loving God, in this broken world you have planted your grace in the cross of Jesus Christ. Help your church to delight in his resurrection and so to share the his suffering in this world by walking with those who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you created the earth to sustain our physical needs, and creation is yours and not ours. Purge from us greed, and waste, and all reckless treatment of what you have so carefully made. Hear us, O God: Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of all peace, you desire that we live in just and whole communities. Protect those who live under violent threat, especially the people of Ukraine, Yemen, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Artsakh region. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of renewal, help this nation. Send us leaders with a heart for the common good. Temper the zeal that degrades our common life, and help us all take responsibility for the society we have. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God who knows all our needs better than we know them ourselves, we lift up to you those who are most on our minds this morning: those who are sick, those who are incarcerated, those who are overwhelmed by

addiction, those who have lost hope, trusting that your care will sustain them. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of prudence, bless those who oversee this congregation's finances: Melody, our treasurer; Brandon and Brandi, our financial secretary; all of our counters, and all those who give of their resources to build up your ministry in this place. Give us generous hearts as we care for what is yours. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, make us all into living stones in your household, and keep us in communion with all those who have gone before us, that together at the end of time we may praise you without end. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

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.*

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

"The Love of the Lord" / "Higher Ground"

(Philippians 3: 7-11) (Philippians 3: 14)

-Michael Joncas, b. 1951 -Charles H. Gabriel

Kevin Mathias, *recorder*

Harry Cunningham, *pianist*

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

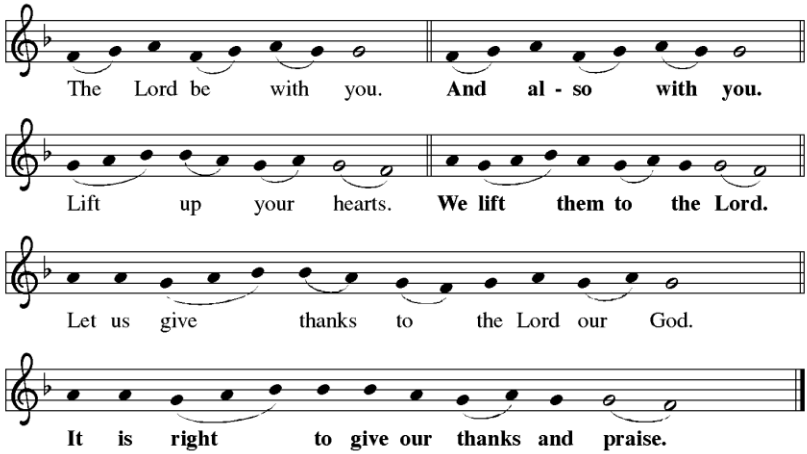
"Now the Silence"

Red Book #460



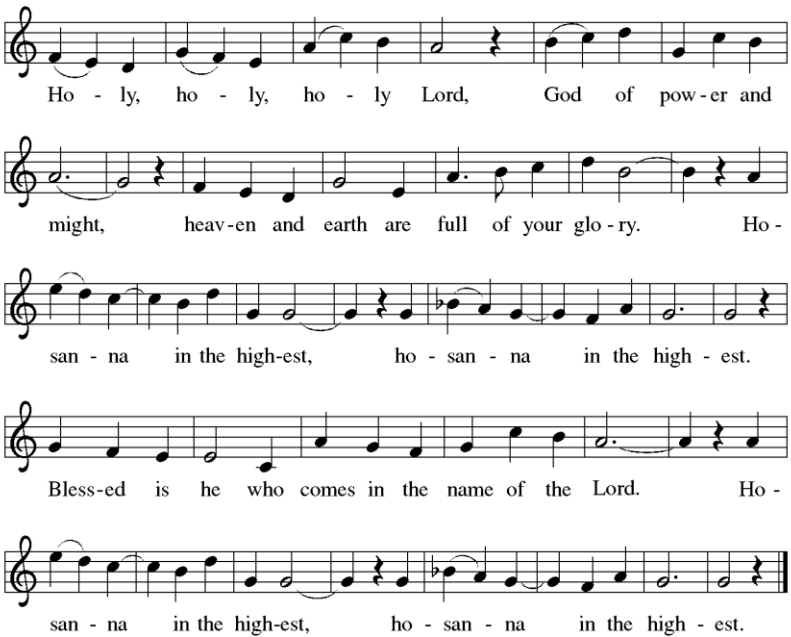
OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

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.

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, 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.**

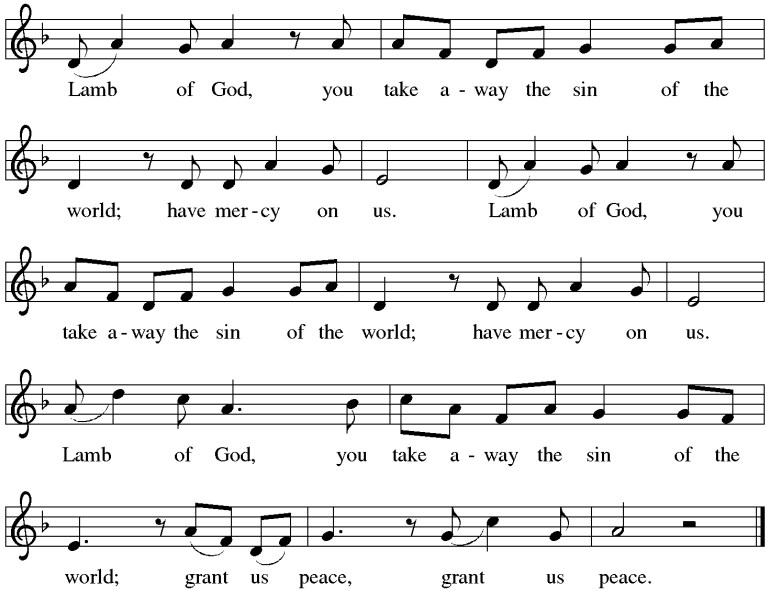
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**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, 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

"O Lamb of God Most Holy"

- Gerald Near, *arr.*

*The congregation may stand.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**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**

"Thine the Amen"

Red Book #826

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

"My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker"

- J. S. Bach

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Susan Farrell	<b>Reader</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Crucifer</b>
Shane Kamerer	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Karen and Bob Domanski	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy and Bill Vilcheck.*

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 10/9	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 10/12	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 10/14	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 10/15	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Intergenerational Faith Formation Event (Social Hall)
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pr. Kimerly van Driel will be out of the office** Monday, Oct. 9, through Wednesday, Oct. 11, to attend the synod theological convocation.

**Emergency Call for Winter Coats!** Bundle Up Butler is coming on October 20<sup>th</sup> and there is a particular need for adult winter coats size L-2XL. Do you have a new or gently used winter coat that you could share? Please bring any donations to Pr. Kimberly's office by 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12.

**Butler Meals on Wheels** is hosting a dine-in or take-out fundraiser dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 4-7 pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church. The Italian dinner is \$12 and will be catered by The Monroe.

**Support our Confirmation Students!** Our confirmation classes this year are gathering for lunch in addition to instruction. We are looking for donations to help us keep our youth fed physically with mac-n-cheese, a salad bar, and a dessert while they are fed spiritually with God's word! Our next meeting is Oct. 22. A sign-up sheet can be found on the social hall bulletin board. We need lunch to feed 10 (8 youth and 2 adults).

Questions? Speak to Pr. Kimberly or Sue Morrow.

**Reminder to families of youth who want to attend the 2024 Youth Gathering** in New Orleans on July 16-20, please email your commitment to Pr. Kimberly directly no later than Oct. 21. For more information about the Gathering, please visit [www.elca.church/gathering](http://www.elca.church/gathering).

**Trunk or Treat** will be in the parking lot beside the church office on Sunday, Oct. 22 following worship. Anyone is welcome to decorate their trunk and/or dress-up to hand out treats to the kids! Please let Sharon Miller know if you have questions or plan to participate.

**Following worship on October 22**, members of church council will be hosting a focus group for families with older children to discuss First English's Christian education and faith formation program.

**Retreat for Community Dinner Volunteers** will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at 9:30 a.m. concluding with lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Woodland Lodge, Camp Lutherlyn, 500 Lutherlyn Ln, Prospect PA. It's been a season of change and challenge at community dinner with rising need in our community.

Those who serve others also need time to be fed, to reflect on our ministry, and to build relationships with one another. Join us for a time of good food and thoughtful conversation outside of the weekly pressure of Monday. Anyone who volunteers with community dinner—in any capacity—is welcome!

**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

Frank Miller; Zema Schaney; family of Tony Sequite; Mackenzie Perkins; Mairead Magee; Linda Mathias; Gus Keiser; Cory; Will; Carol Chamberlain; Carol Johnson; Mason Martin; family of Janet Warner; Eileen Herbeck; family of Linda Hibbeler; Marj Rogner; Thelma Hassler; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Aryl Bashline; Holly Schubert; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**Isaiah 25:1-9**

*The feast of victory*

**Psalm 23**

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (*Ps. 23:5*)

**Philippians 4:1-9**

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

**Matthew 22:1-14**

*The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*



**FUNDRAISER**  
TO STRENGTHEN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
MALAGASY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**OCTOBER 15**  
**4:00 PM**

**Taste of Madagascar**  
**"Growing Together"**

Zion Lutheran Church  
557 Perry Hwy, Harmony, PA 16037

**\$30 ADULTS (18+)**  
**\$15 YOUTH (11-17)**  
**\$0 KIDS (-10)**  
LIMITED SEATING

 [SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MADAGASCAR](http://SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MADAGASCAR)

**Come learn more about the Lutheran church in Madagascar** and our relationship with the Malagasy Synod, as well as life in this amazing country. The dinner will consist of authentic foods prepared by a native from Madagascar. Items from Madagascar will be on display to view and handle, shared by those who have had the opportunity to visit Madagascar. Today is the last day to register. Please speak to Pr. Kimberly if you would like to attend.



*Liturgical portions of today's service are reprinted with permission under  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028762.*