

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING FOR ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Red Book #807

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 99 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING**Amos 7:7-15**

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

(read responsively)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 Mark 6:14-29

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

¹⁴ King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her

mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.”²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God of Mercy, God of Light”

Red Book #714

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You made and all of creation and you preserve all things by your power. Send rain to nourish the land on which we live, that plants, animals, and people may flourish. Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. We come to you again to ask for an end to war. Help earthly leaders live not by fear but by faith and peace. Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for those who have requested our prayers this week: for Tad, for Ben, for Bill, and for all others on our hearts and minds...Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit sends us out to serve this community. We pray for First English's community partners: for the NA and AA groups that meet in our building, for the staff and teachers at Emily Brittain Elementary School, for Allison Park Church, Community Partnership, and all who support our community dinner, Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You raise up people of every generation to worship you and show your love to the world. Send your Spirit on Blake, Megan, Pr. Joel, Cooper, Mason, Alex and Pr. Kimberly as they travel to New Orleans. Give them hearts and minds open to your grace through new people, new ideas, and new places, and protect their comings and goings. Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (*especially*). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and 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.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

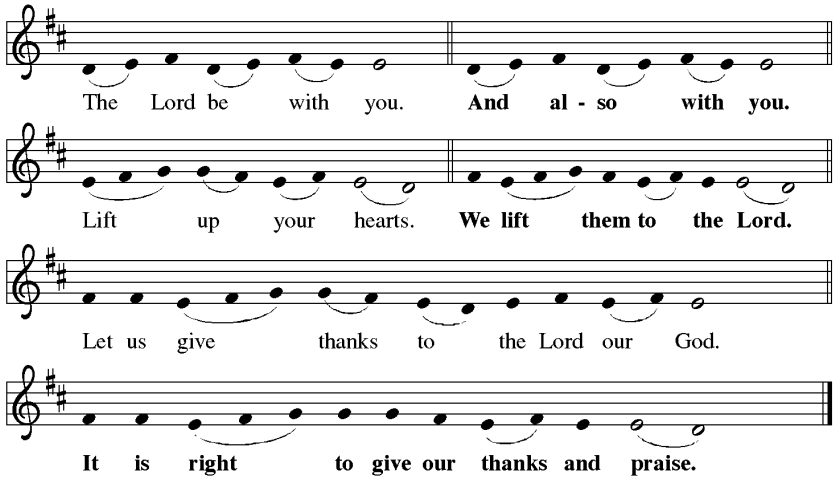
The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

The congregation may stand.

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. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory....
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all
 who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our
 Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now
 and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus our Savior has taught us, let us pray:

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

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Come to this feast of
 resurrection and new life.

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.

After all have received, the congregation may stand.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

The Kingdom of God

Ostinato Refrain

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and
El rei - no de Dios es rei - no de paz, jus -

joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and
ti - cia y a - le - grí - a. Ven, Dios, y

o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.
a - bre en mí las puer - tas del rei - no. *Last time*

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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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.

SONG 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.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

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 with favor upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“What God Ordains is Good Indeed”

Red Book #776

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister

Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Shane Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Karen and Bob Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Brenda Ihlenfeld, in memory of Robert and Florence Ihlenfeld.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 7/15	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 7/18	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 7/20	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 7/21	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we commission the group from Butler (Trinity and First English) that is attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We ask for your prayers for Alex Kamerer, Blake Miller, Cooper Pollock, Mason Heichel, Megan Miller, Pr. Kimberly van Driel and Pr. Joel Benson.

Pr. Joe Boomhower of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicora, will cover pastoral emergencies from July 15-20 during the Gathering. He can be reached at 724-445-3574 or 724-840-0880.

Submissions for the August Newsletter are due in the church office by **Monday, July 22**. Please email electronic submissions to Caitlyn at officefelc@zoominternet.net.

A Summer Music Schedule is posted in the Social Hall. Please consider signing your name on the schedule for one of the Sundays in **July** or **August**. We look forward to hearing your voice, your instrument, and musical talent as an important part of our worship! Kevin Mathias and

Signe Mitchell are available if you have any questions.



PRAYERS

Bill Brown; Ben Keeler; Tracy Tucci; Aidan & family of Rhonda Rogers-Ace; Nick Iman; Aryl Bashline; Jack and Amy Beiler; Julie, Greg & family; family of Kenneth Mathias; Nissa Rappaport & family; Pr. Jim Dollhopf & family; Bruce Solomon; Tracy Gullickson; family & friends of Walter Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6

From David's line, a righteous shepherd for Israel

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Reconciled to God through Christ, our peace

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Christ healing the multitudes

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