

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on G4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody from the first line. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody continues in the treble clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, **“Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”**

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22 (*read responsively*)

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hallelujah



Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,



hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Traditional

Music: SYRIAN HALLELUJAH, Syrian traditional

GOSPEL John 6:56-69

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood,
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Defend us from evil thoughts and impulses that so easily infect our hearts. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of grace, you call people to help us live as your baptized people. Today, we remember our bishops Elizabeth and Kurt. Guide them as they help the church navigate challenging times. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, lead our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Make us ready for change where change would serve the common good and lift up those who are poor or needy. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts (*especially*). Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of new life, protect students, teachers, and staff for a new school year. Make our schools free from violence and into havens for all learners. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of song, you are worthy of praise. We thank you for Harry Cunningham's forty years as our choir director, and we pray that through his service you would continue to draw us to your beauty and grace. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys (*especially*). Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Welcome to this Holy Church”

- Emma Lou Diemer

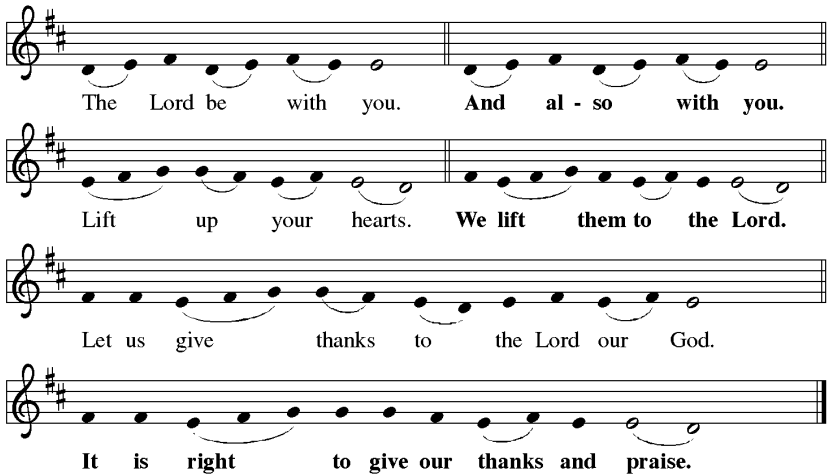
Summer Singers

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.

We praise you, all-holy God,
 for you have made this whole creation,
 Even the universe beyond our knowing....
 And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again...

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.

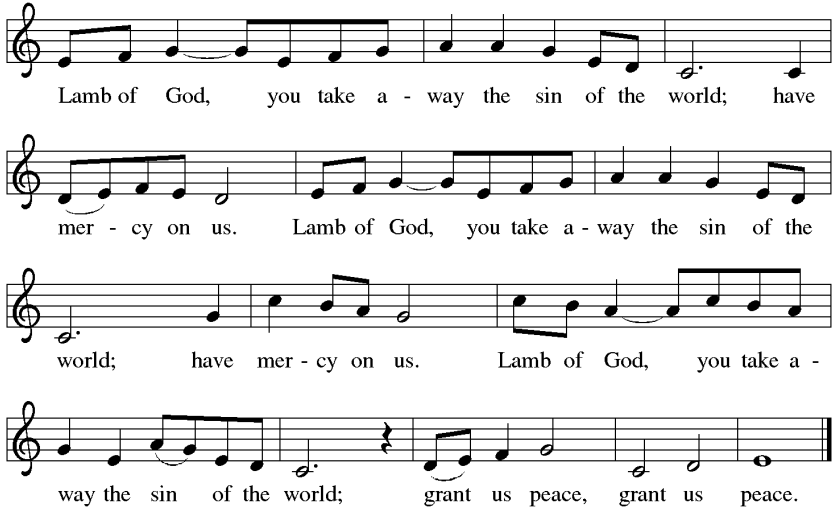
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

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. 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.

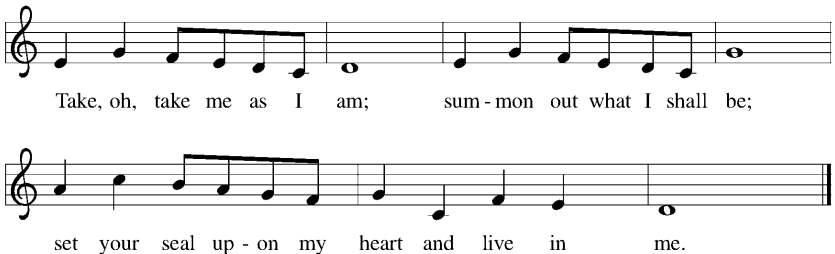
The congregation may sit.

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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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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

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet *Vamos todos al banquete*



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

2 Dios invita a todos los pobres
a esta mesa común por la fe,
donde no hay acaparadores
y a nadie le falta el conqué. Estribillo

3 Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo
una mesa donde haya igualdad,
trabajando y luchando juntos,
compartiendo la propiedad. Estribillo

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Communion Assistant
Amy Beiler	Reader
Kevin Mathias	Keyboardist
Susan Farrell and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

All are welcome to join us for a picnic following the worship service.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 8/26	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 8/29	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal resumes
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 8/31	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/1	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

PRAYERS

Valerie Kurth; family of John Mileski; Cindy Halin; Mike Gibson; Dennis; Debra Williamson; Amy Waldron; Evelyn Shaulis; Bill Brown; Ben & the Keeler family; Tracy Tucci; 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 Szcurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Emily Brittain Shopping Guide

Pants

No Jeans, Please! Elastic Waist Only!

Boys: Size XS (6) thru XL (18-20)

Sweatpants, Full-length Athletic pants, and
Knee-length Athletic shorts

Girls: Size XS (6) thru XL (14-16)

Yoga pants, Leggings, and Sweatpants

T-Shirts

Plain Colors, Please! No Graphics!

Boys: Size XS thru XL

Short-sleeve tees, Long-sleeve tees, and Hoodies

Girls: Size XS thru XL

Short-sleeve tees, Long-sleeve tees, Tank tops to
layer, and Hoodies

Sneakers

Children Sizes 11-13 and Youth Sizes 1-5

Unisex Black or White Sneakers

Socks

Boys and Girls Sizes Medium and Large

Unisex Black or White Socks



BUTLER COUNTY
Symphony
ORCHESTRA

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

FEATURING

**BRASS QUINTET NO.1 BY VICTOR EWALD
CLARINET QUINTET IN A-MAJOR BY
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

Saturday, September 7, 2024 3PM
First English Lutheran Church, Butler

Sunday, September 8, 2024 3PM
Hope Lutheran Church, Cranberry Township

FREE ADMISSION

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

God's law: a sign of a great nation

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (*Ps. 15:1*)

James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion

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