

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The congregation may sit, kneel, or adopt another posture appropriate for confession.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Red Book #774

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, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-9 (*read responsively*)

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**²for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon
me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

**⁴Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

**⁶The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

**⁸For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

SECOND READING James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

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 **Mark 8:27-38**

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their

life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Built on a Rock”

Red Book #652

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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for your help in making our speech and conversation wise and peaceful. Teach us not to amplify lies nor speak in ways that dehumanize others, but give us words to comfort and sustain. We also pray for the powerful, that they would be especially prudent and truthful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, all with mental health concerns, and all at risk of suicidal desperation. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all for whom prayers have been requested... and for those things for which we need God's help....Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Today we lift up to you those at Emily Brittain Elementary School. We pray that you would use what we have gathered for their Comfort Closet to sustain their well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“You Are the Christ”

- Pepper Choplin

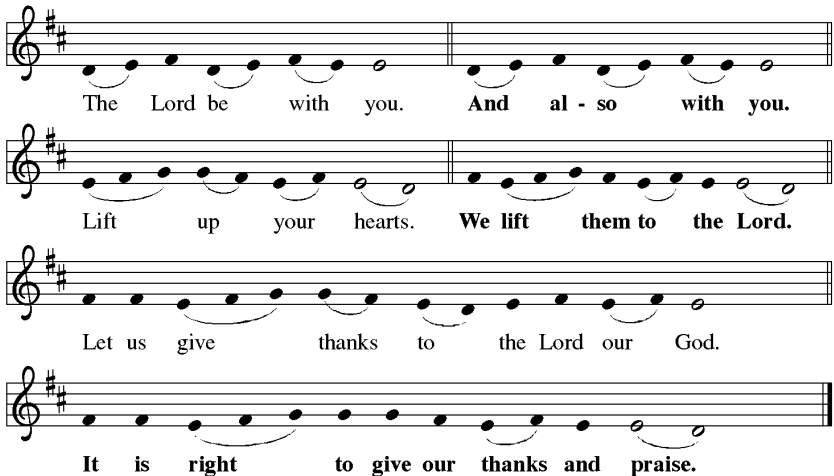
(based on *Matt. 16: 13-18*)

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....*(the prayers continue)*
 And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again...*(the prayers continue)*
 We praise you, all-holy God,
 the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,
 today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

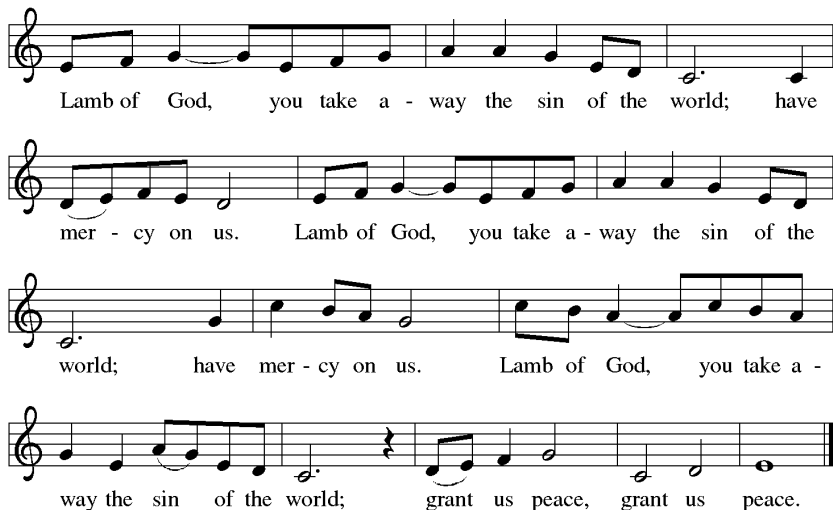
Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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 Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe



1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's



up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your



flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is



bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -



der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015

Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Åhlén, 1894–1982

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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

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

Red Book #808

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister

Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Susan Farrell	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God
by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 9/16	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 9/19	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/21	10:30 PM	ACA Meeting (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/22	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intergenerational Events Series: Comfort Food for the Spirit starts today after worship. The world we live in is anxious. This nation, as it heads into an election season, seems to be in a constant state of division. Even so, God is constantly present here! We cannot control the anxiety all around us, but we can become more deeply aware of God's presence which calms our spirits and offers us hope. This series of events will explore different practices that feed our spirits. There's no one-size-fits all approach to prayer, and we'll be exploring different ways that work for different personalities. For all ages!

Save the Date! Dinner Church – Sunday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Please sign up in the social hall if you plan to attend.

PRAYERS

George Schaney; Stephen Wright; Steve; Jim Chapin; family of Beth Chambers; Don Eckels; 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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Jeremiah 11:18-20

The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter

Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom from above

Mark 9:30-37

Prediction of the passion

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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