

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 22, 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**

“All Are Welcome”

Red Book #641

## **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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

#### **FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 11:18-20**

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 54**     (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,

those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

**SECOND READING**     **James 3:13—4:3, 7-8A**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your

pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9:30-37**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to

them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Red Book #781

## **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.*

For the people of God, that we may find true life in the way of service to others...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For peace in our world, especially in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, Syria, Sudan, Myanmar, and all areas of conflict, hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the safety of political leaders amidst threats of violence, especially for Donald Trump and Kamala Harris. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the Haitian community of Springfield, OH; for Wittenberg University and all schools and institutions under threat, and for all those who serve and protect the people of this country. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those affected by flooding in Central Europe and in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, for those suffering in the wake of storm in China, and for who must cope with extreme weather. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those most on our hearts at this hour, especially...for those who are sick, those who are in institutional care, and those who have asked for our prayers...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those who are grieving this week, especially the families of... and all who need a sign of resurrection hope, 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**

“Hear My Prayer”

- Will James

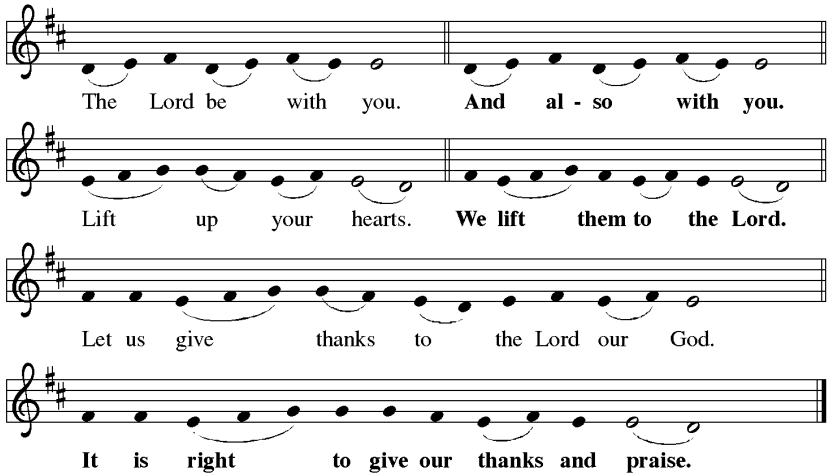
(text selected from the *Psalms*)

*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**

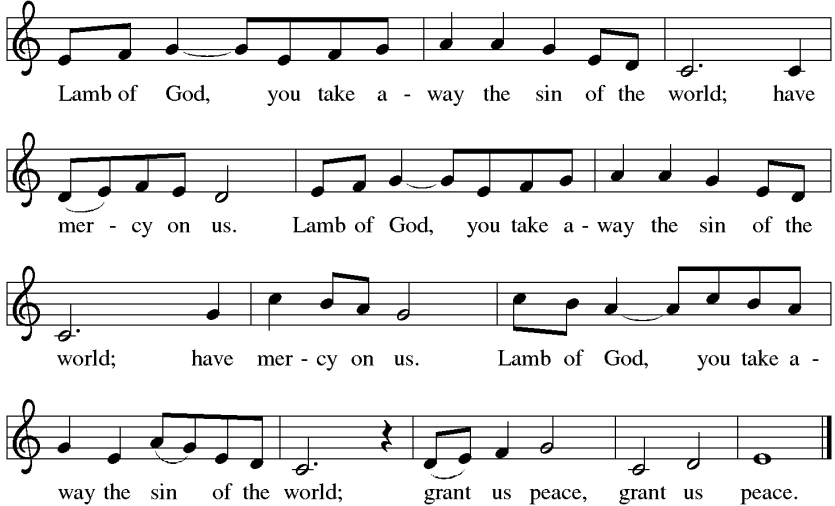
As Jesus our Savior has taught us, let us pray:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against 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

Text and music © 1934, 1974 A. B. Nordiska Musikforlaget, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com).  
All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

## 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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Red Book #815

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

#### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>

Jim Cunningham	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Larry Hamil	<b>Reader</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Crucifer</b>
Alex Kamerer	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Gracie Love	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow and Andrew O'Rourke	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack and Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry Hamil,  
in memory of my beloved mother, Mildred Kathryn Montgomery Hamil.*

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

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

Mon., 9/23	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 9/26	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 9/27	2:30 PM	ACA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/28	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/29	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Dinner Church
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dinner Church – Sunday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m.**

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

### **PRAYERS**

Tommy, Jenny, & Aspen Zarnick; Scott Tammaro; Sinead; 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 Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

*The Lord's spirit comes upon seventy elders*

**Psalm 19:7-14**

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

**James 5:13-20**

*Prayer and anointing in the community*

**Mark 9:38-50**

*Warnings to those who obstruct faith*

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

*One License Licensing Permission: Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under  
One License #A-734698. All Rights Reserved.*