

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Praeludium in a-Moll”

- Carl Czerny

“Jerusalem Whose Towers Touch the Skies”

- Ludwig Ernst Gebhardi

“Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus”

- Joe Utterback, *arr.*

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

“O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True”

Red Book #675

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. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7A

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 (*read responsively*)

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**²I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

**⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those
who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the
wicked.

**¹⁰The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 7:24-37

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered

them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

Red Book #612

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.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

Merciful God,

The congregation responds:

Receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes:

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

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

“Oh, Blest the House”

- Mark Sedio

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


CHOIR ANTHEM

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

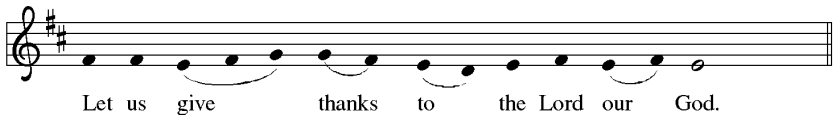
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

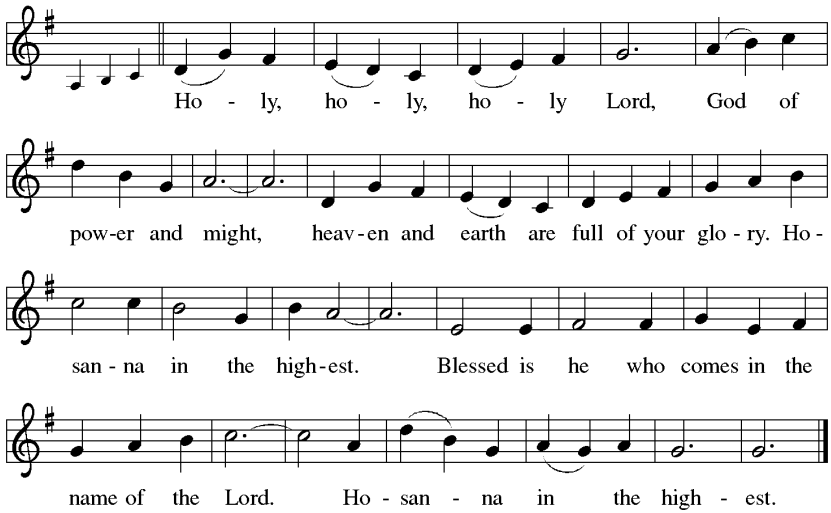


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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:

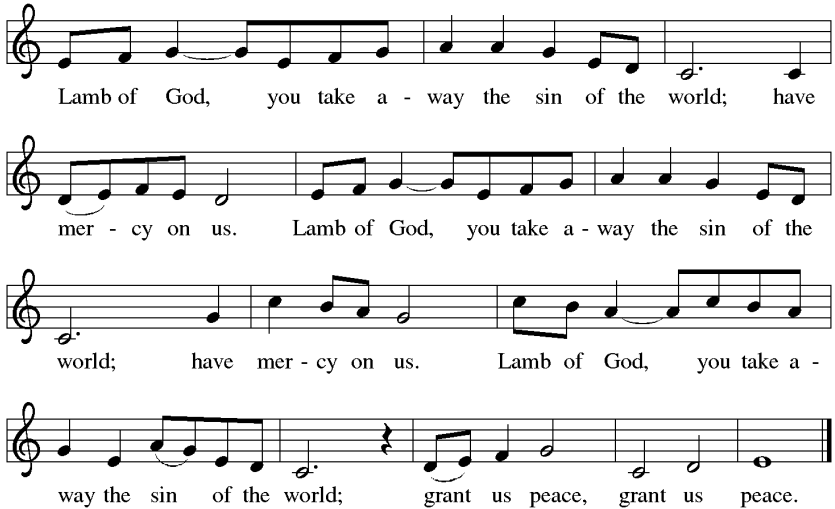
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

Red Book #814

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

"Earth and All Stars!"

Red Book #731

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

- Georgi Mushel

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Communion Assistant
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	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., 9/9	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 9/10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 9/11	8:00 AM	Health Clinic Meeting (Social Hall)
	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs., 9/12	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 9/14	10:30 PM	ACA Meeting (Social Hall)
	12-4:00 PM	NA Group (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 9/15	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Intergenerational Event (Social Hall)
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Bible Study resumes this week. Please join us! In September, we will look at the gospel reading appointed for each week.

Intergenerational Events Series: Comfort Food for the Spirit starts next Sunday, September 15 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.

PRAYERS

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

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant is vindicated by God

Psalms 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)

James 3:1-12

Dangers of the unbridled tongue

Mark 8:27-38

Peter's confession of faith

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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