



**Proper 8, Year A**  
**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

*“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”*

July 5, 2026  
10:00am Service - Rite 2

Links to the Sunday (10AM) Livestream Service  
and Service Bulletin available weekly

**Welcome visitors and seasonal neighbors! We rejoice in your presence among us.  
To get to know you better please sign our guest book kept in the narthex.**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Office phone: (570)421-7481 | Open on Wed. and Thur. 1:30-6:30pm.

Fr. Bill's office hours: Wed. and Thur. 11:30am-3:30pm.

E-Mail: office@christchurchstroudsburg.org

***“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”***

Diocese of the Susquehanna

Priest: The Rev. Bill Martin

**Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan & Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, *Bishops***

**VESTRY**

Senior Warden – Carl A.

Jr. Warden – Cheryl C.

Clerk of Vestry – Chris S.

Patti A., Myra B., Debby C., Kevin F.,  
Marcos G., Katina W., Sharon P.

**LITURGY PARTICIPANTS**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Bill Martin

**Lectors:** Mary Ellen W. | Martha L.

**Altar Assistant/Crucifer:** Anthony P.

**Chalice Bearer:** Mary Ellen W.

**Music Director:** Bethann K.

**Ushers/Greeters:** Chris S. | Tina W.

**Counters:** Steve W. | Martha L.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Church Admin – Andrea C.

**Books in the Pews for Service**

**BCP** – The Book of Common Prayer (**RED** book)

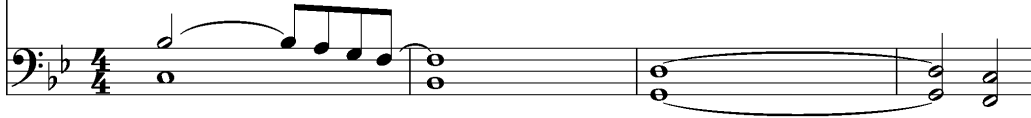
**H** – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

**WLP** – Wonder, Love & Praise (**GREEN** book)

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Hear O Lord Your Servants Gather* (English verses)



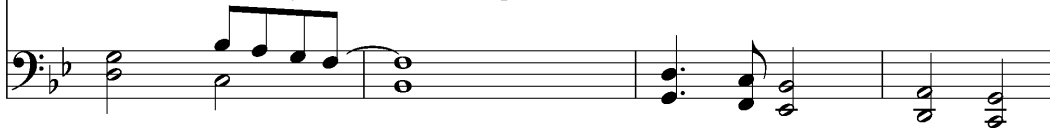
1. Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;  
*1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,*  
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,  
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.  
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;



Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
*Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,*  
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.  
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?  
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:  
*Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,*  
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:  
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:  
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.  
*Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.*  
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.  
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.  
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.



## OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

## OPENING ANTHEM - *Glory to God* (WLP 821)

*Glory to God;*

*Praise to the Son;*

*Love to the Spirit;*

*Three and yet One.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *Amen.*

## Collect for 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Observance

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 145:8-15**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, the Lord is our ruler; \*  
the Holy One of Israel is our King.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is loving to everyone \*  
and his compassion is over all his works.

<sup>10</sup>All your works praise you, O Lord, \*  
and your faithful servants bless you.

<sup>11</sup>They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;

<sup>12</sup>That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord is faithful in all his words \*  
and merciful in all his deeds.

<sup>15</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **SEQUENCE HYMN: *Spirit of God Unseen (VF 53) Verse 1***

### **Chorus:**

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
Gentle as is the dove;  
Teach us the truth and help us believe,  
Show us the Saviour's love!

### **Verse 1:**

You spoke to us long, long ago,  
Gave us the written word;  
We read it still, needing its truth  
Through it God's voice is heard

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

## **SEQUENCE HYMN: *Spirit of God Unseen (VF 53)***

### **Chorus:**

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
Gentle as is the dove;  
Teach us the truth and help us believe,  
Show us the Saviour's love!

### **Verse 2:**

Without your help, we fail our Lord,  
We cannot live His way;  
We need Your power, we need Your strength,  
Following Christ each day.

## **THE SERMON**

## THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

*Please stand as you are able.*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All remain standing.*

Great are the deeds of the Lord! Sisters and brothers, let us pray, saying,  
“Christ, hear our prayer! Jesus, have mercy on us!”

May your Church be faithful, even as you are faithful. May we and your whole Church unashamedly work to further the gospel. May we overcome whatever apathy or distraction might threaten our witness.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May the nations of the world seek wisdom and truth. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Audrey and Kevin, our own Bishops, Bill our Priest and Barbara our Canon Missioner. In our country we pray for Donald our President, and Josh our Governor. May people, rich and poor, powerful and weak, find in you the source of healing and wholeness. In our congregation we pray for Carol Gabrielan, Margaret Giese and the Gerhardt family. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna we pray for St. Luke’s, Lebanon; St. James, Lancaster; and the Commission on Ministry. In Kajo Keji we pray for St. John Litaba Parish. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of South America.

*Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May we protect and guard the created order. May we recognize the majesty and splendor of all you have made. May we remember that healthy waters, sky, and land make us healthier people.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May we be ever compassionate toward those who are pushed into the margins of our society. Give us open hearts that welcome and open hands that touch. Teach us a love that crosses boundaries and borders.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May the sick and suffering know in their bodies and minds your healing power. You desire to make men and women clean of disease and stigma; make your grace known.

O Lord our God, restore to health those who cry out to you, especially Gail, Elaine, Isaac, Janet, Nick, Lynn, Anthony, Oliver, Lorelai, Marshall, Richard, Antonia, Rebecca, June, Barbara, Eliza, Margaret, Berni, Julian, Noel, Mike, Chris, Frank, Zach, Laura, Jo, Loretta, Brianna, Renee, Mary and Jim E, Jodi, David, Denise and Jay.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May those who have died know the salvation found in you, Christ Jesus. Preserve the living in the enduring hope that, just as we are baptized into your death, so will we also live with you forever.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

*Celebrant*

We give thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his presence with us. Because he lives, we look for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 360)**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS** : Birthdays, Anniversaries and Traveling. See Insert

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** See last page.

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

**OFFERTORY: *Music Meditation*** – Bethann K.

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN *From all that dwell below the skies Verse 3* (H 380)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Holy Eucharist: Rite II (361-363)*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (WLP 858)***

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 364)**

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

***[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]***

## **FRACTION ANTHEM: (LEVAS 270) Lamb of God**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Grant us peace.**

## **INVITATION (BCP p. 364)**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)**

*You can remain seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you can consume it then drink from the first cup of consecrated wine. You can also hold the bread to “intinct” or touch the tip of the bread into the second cup of wine. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. If you would like a blessing, come forward and cross your hands over your heart to indicate you would like to be blessed. Gluten free wafers are available. Please let the priest know as you come forward. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

## **COMMUNION HYMN: This is My Song (ELW 887)**

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are blu - er than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
But other lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,  
your king - dome come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,  
and hearts u - ni - ted learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;  
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Congregation's Hymn Selection***

### **DISMISSAL (BCP 340)**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Altar Flowers honor the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.

**2026 Graduates** please email details to the office at [office@christchurchstroudsburg.org](mailto:office@christchurchstroudsburg.org)

**Coffee Hour** is hosted by Jill T. **Please join us after the service!**

**Poconos Health and Wellness Fest** is today from 2-7pm. See Flyers in Narthex.



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Office phone: (570)421-7481 | Open on Wed. and Thur. 1:30-6:30pm.

Fr. Bill's office hours: Wed. and Thur. 11:30am-3:30pm.

E-Mail: [office@christchurchstroudsburg.org](mailto:office@christchurchstroudsburg.org)