



Proper 11, Year A
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

July 19, 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: Gail M. | Chris S.

Altar Assistant/Crucifer: Anthony P.

Chalice Bearer/Server: Carl A.

Music Director: Bethann K.

Ushers/Greeters: Chris S. | Tina W.

Counters: Jill T. | 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)

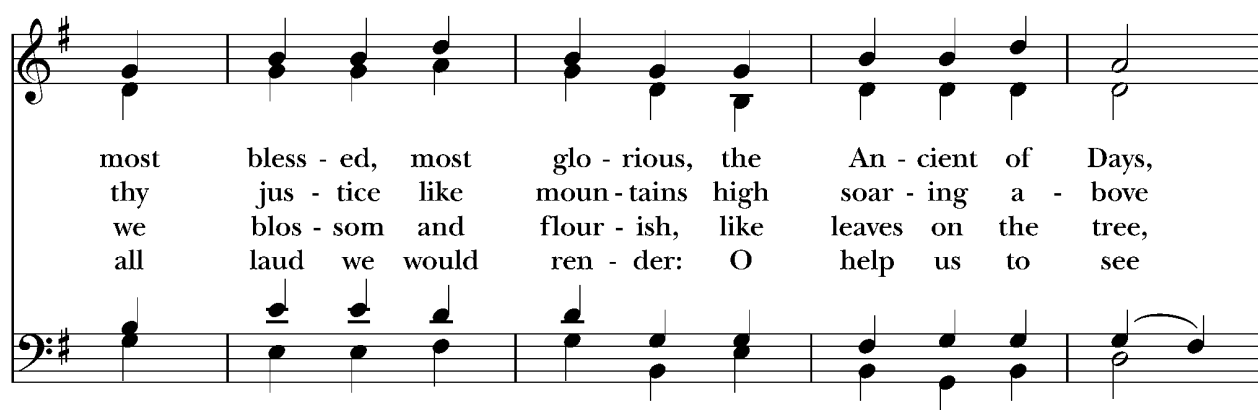
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise (H 423)*



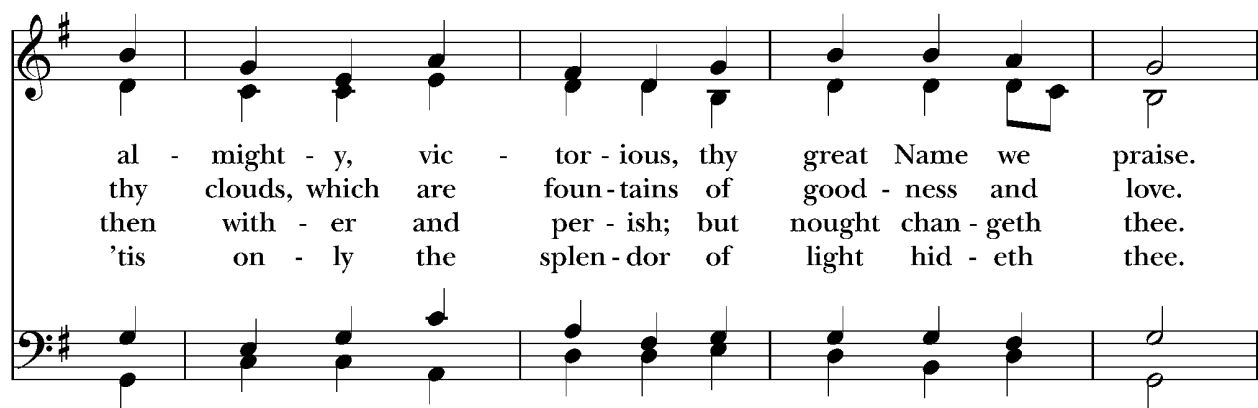
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

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.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth; *
 knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
 and glorify your Name for evermore.
¹³For great is your love toward me; *
 you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
 they have not set you before their eyes.
¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
 slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
 give your strength to your servant;
 and save the child of your handmaid.
¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
 because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

The people sit.

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

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children,

then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²⁴[Another parable Jesus put before the crowds:] “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So

when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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 Lynn Harrison and the Hoyt and Hudson families. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna we pray for Good Shepherd, Milford; St. Thomas, Lancaster. In Kajo Keji we pray for Sera Jale Parish and Dwani-Stra of Susquehanna Primary School. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

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, 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.

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (LEVAS 119)

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love.

1. Draw it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 2. No sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 3. Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 4. One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

1. Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 2. No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - p'ning skies;
 3. To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 4. The kin - dling of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

1. And make me love thee as I ought to love.
 2. But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 3. Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 4. My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

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*

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL (BCP 340)

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Coffee Hour is hosted by Theresa C., so please join us after the service. Volunteers need to host upcoming coffee hours. Signup sheet is in the Narthex. Thanks!

2026 Graduates please email details to the office at office@christchurchstroudsburg.org

Next Food Pantry is August 1st from 7-11am. Volunteers Needed.



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