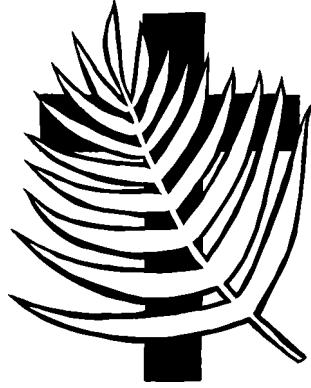




Proper 17, Year A
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

August 30, 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.,
Katina W., Sharon P.

LITURGY PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant: The Rev. Bill Martin

Lectors: Mary Ellen | Martha L.

Altar Assistant/Crucifer: Anthony P.

Chalice Bearers/Servers: Carl A.

Music Director: Bethann K.

Ushers/Greeters: Tina W. | Debby C.

Counters: Steve W. | Martha L.

CHURCH STAFF

Church Admin – Andrea C.

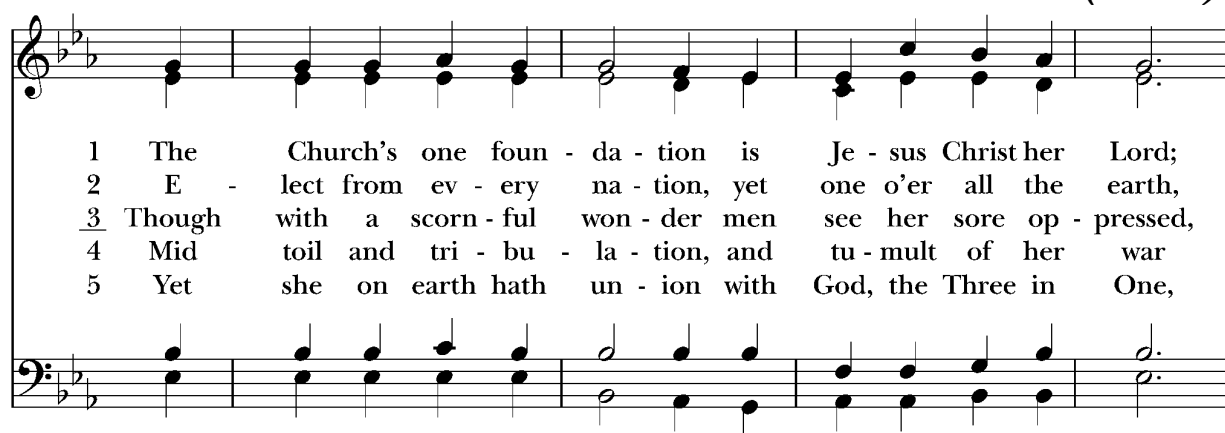
Books in the Pews for Service

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

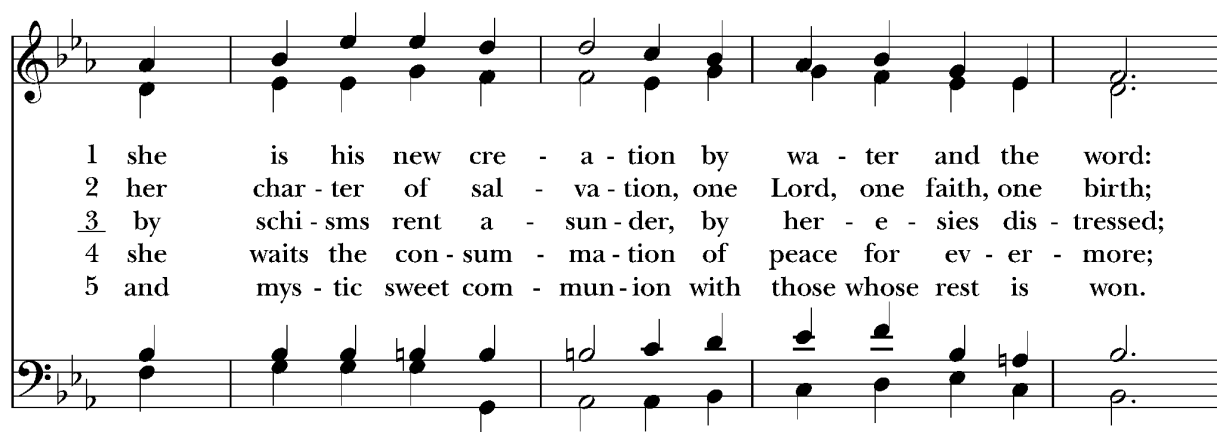
H – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

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

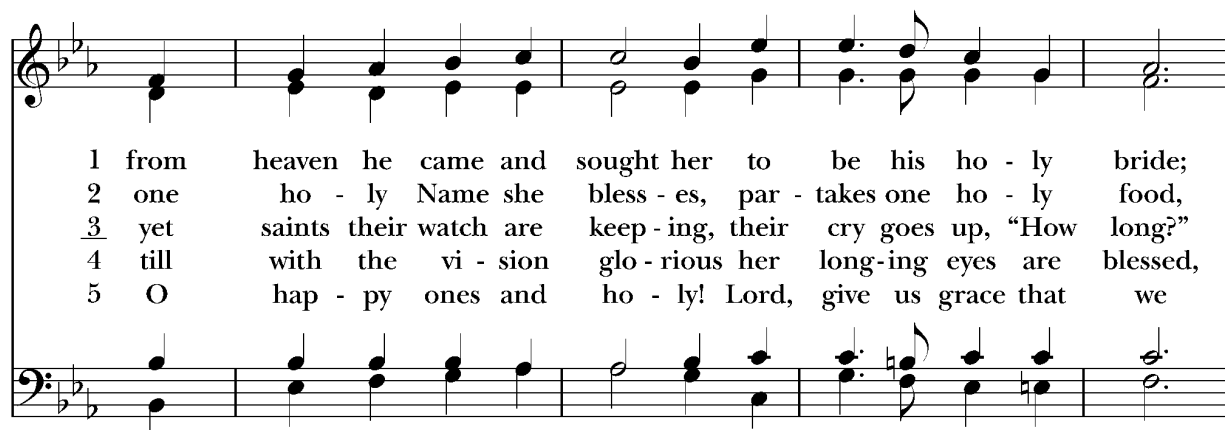
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *The Church's One Foundation* (H 525)



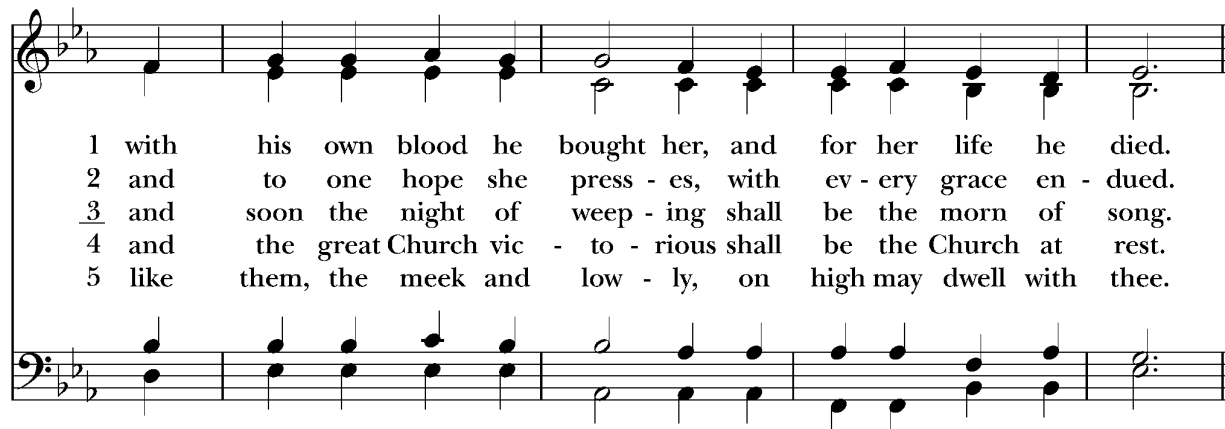
1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with 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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Jeremiah.

¹⁵O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,

nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

Remain seated.

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²Test me, O Lord, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.

³For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

The people sit.

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

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

All stand.

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

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

²¹Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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 Sharon Moorer and the Moody family. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna we pray for St. Brigid’s, Nazareth and St. John’s, Marietta. In Kajo Keji we pray for the Aijra Parish and the Gaderu-Victoria Leach Primary School. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of the West Indies.

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 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, especially Joan Manhart, 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: *Vergnugen and Lust, from Cantata 197, by Bach.*

Piano- Bethann K. *Flute:* Suzanne Pynch and Erica Zohlmann

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 C

Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Holy Eucharist: Rite II (369-372)

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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 betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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: Jesus, Remember Me

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Repeat

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.

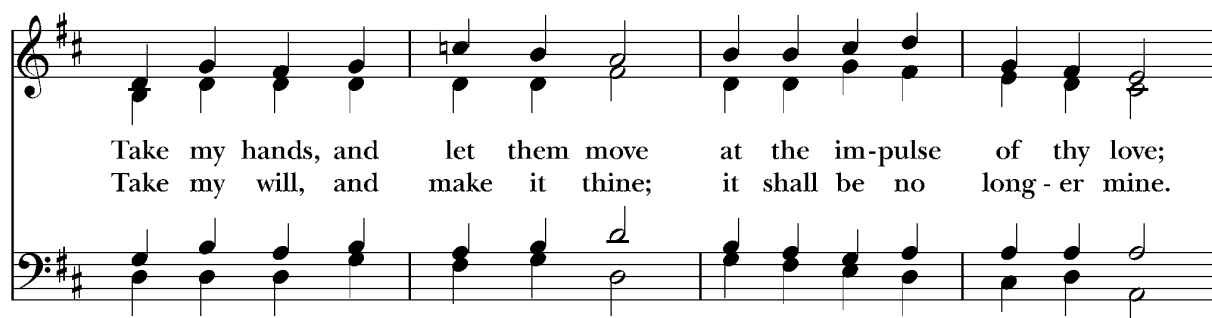
RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Take My Life and Let It Be* (H 707)



1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

DISMISSAL (BCP 340)

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Al and Sally are hosting **Coffee Hour today**. Please join us after the service.
Volunteers needed to host upcoming coffee hours. Signup sheet is in the Narthex.

- 9/8 **Bell Choir starts** on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.
- 9/12 **Safe Church Training** from 10am to 12noon at the **Bethlehem Cathedral**.
- 9/13 **Choral Choir starts** on Sunday after coffee hour.
- 9/16 **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to visit Delta Hotels by Marriott, Breinigsville**
Event is from 3pm-9pm. Register online. Website: diosusquehanna.org
- 9/16 **Ministry Fair** Event is from 3pm-9pm. **Delta Hotels by Marriott, Breinigsville**.
For more details visit website: diosusquehanna.org
- 9/17 **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to visit First Presbyterian Church, Allentown**
Event is from 9am-1pm. Register online. Website: diosusquehanna.org
- 9/19 **Food Pantry from 9-12pm**. Volunteers Needed. See Debby C. for details.
- 9/20 **Welcome Back Church Picnic Potluck** – Save the date. Details to follow.
- 10/3 **The Annual Convention** will be online via Zoom. Website: diosusquehanna.org



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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