



Proper 18, Year A
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

September 6, 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: Deborah E. | Chris S.

Altar Assistant/Crucifer: Anthony P.

Chalice Bearers/Servers: Mary Ellen W.

Music Director: Bethann K.

Ushers/Greeters: Chris N. | Chris S.

Counters: Steve W. | Martha L.

CHURCH STAFF

Church Admin – Andrea C.

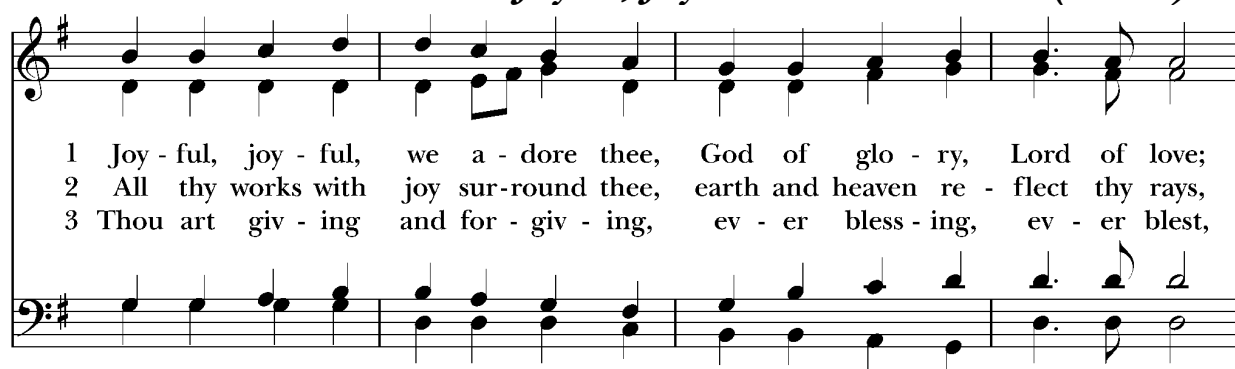
Books in the Pews for Service

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

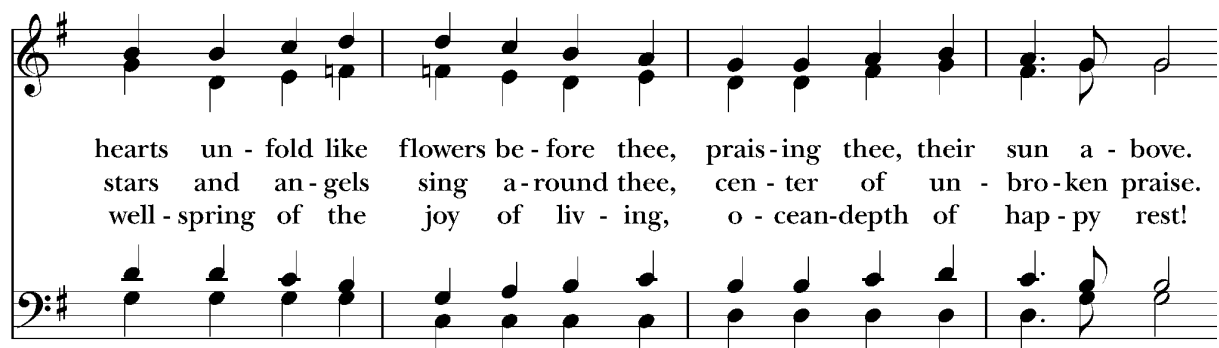
H – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

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

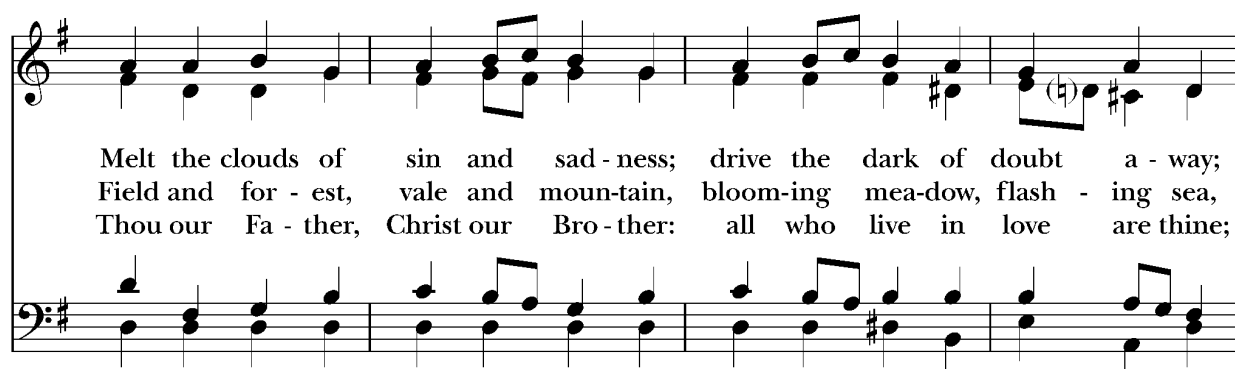
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (H 376)



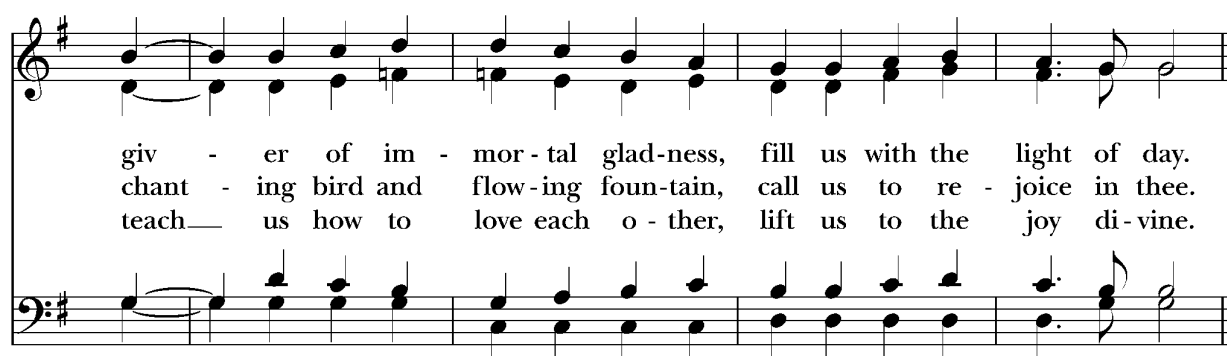
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach— us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, “As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

Remain seated.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The people sit.

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

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the

night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

All stand.

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

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

[Jesus said,] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 the Nelson and Nortey families and The Reverends Douglas and Michelle Moyer. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna we pray for St. Peter's Tunkhannock; St. Luke's Mechanicsburg. In Kajo Keji we pray for Emmanuel Parish Lubule. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.

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 Jordan Mapp, 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 D

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

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

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.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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: Jesus Christ Son of God (WLP 814)



Je - sus Christ, Son of God, make your - self known through me.

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus Christ Son of God' (WLP 814). It is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus Christ, Son of God, make your - self known through me.'

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: *Tis a Gift To Be Simple* (H 554)



'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find our - selves in the place just right,
'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light.
When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Tis a Gift To Be Simple' (H 554). It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find our - selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light. When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to



DISMISSAL (BCP 340)

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Gail and Theresa 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.

9/13 **Trinity Welcome Back Roast-** Please contact Trinity at (570) 839-9376 for details.

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 **9AM Service and 11:30AM Church Picnic** – Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

10/3 **The Annual Convention** will be online via Zoom. Website: diosusquehanna.org

10/3 **Arts on the Mountain Fall Exhibit-** Contact Trinity at (570) 839-9376 for details.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

E-Mail: office@christchurchstroudsburg.org