



Proper 19, Year A
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

September 13, 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.

Members: Patti A., Myra B., Debby C., Kevin F., Katina W., Sharon P.

LITURGY PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant: The Rev. Bill Martin

Lectors: Mike S. | Carl A.

Altar Assistant/Crucifer: Anthony P.

Chalice Bearers/Servers: Debby C. | Andrea C.

Music Director: Bethann K.

Ushers/Greeters: Donna G. | Debby C.

Counters: Chris N. | Jill A.

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: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (H 494)

Descant

5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned a - bove;

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
 2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
 4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
 5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown

crown him to whom is given the won-drous name of Love.

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
 2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
 3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
 4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran-somed sin - ners slain, now
 5 him the King, to whom is given the won-drous name of Love. Crown

Crown him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu-man breast, and
 3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
 4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
 5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be-fore him fall, crown

fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.

1 hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
 5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

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: *Gloria in excelsis* (S 280)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 103: 8-13

Remain seated.

⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

The people sit.

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

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

All stand.

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

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

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

(BCP P. 387) Form III

All remain standing.

The Reader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

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 musical score is for a hymn in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (WLP 751)

Harmony

Ev' - ry time I feel the spir - it, mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev' - ry time I feel the

The musical score is for a hymn in 4/4 time, key of D major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. The word 'Harmony' is written above the first staff.

Fine

spir - it, mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

unison

1. Up on the moun - tain my Lord spoke, out of his
 2. Jor - dan ri - ver chil - ly and cold, chills the

(7)

mouth came fire and smoke. All a - round me looked so
 bod - y but not the soul. There ain't but one train runs this

D.C.

fine, track, asked my Lord if all was mine.
 runs to heav - en and runs right back.

DISMISSAL (BCP 340)

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chris S. is hosting **Coffee Hour today**. Please join us after the service.

Volunteers are needed to host upcoming coffee hours. Signup sheet is in the Narthex.

9/13 **Choral Choir** starts on Sundays after coffee hour.

9/15 **Bell Choir practice** on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

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.

9/23 **Book Study: The Familiar Stranger** by Tyler Staton. Details/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.

10/4 **St. Francis Service (10AM) and Pet Blessing (1pm)** – See flyer in Narthex

10/16 **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to visit Delta Hotels by Marriott, Breinigsville**

Event is from 3pm-9pm. Ministry Fair is from 3pm-5pm. Registration is required.

For details and registration, visit website: diosusquehanna.org

10/17 **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to visit First Presbyterian Church, Allentown**

Event is from 9am-1pm. Registration is required. Website: diosusquehanna.org