

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**July 27, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”

**Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.**



**+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**The Hudson**

**arr. Ola Gjiello**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN      As We Gather at Your Table      ELW 522**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **First Reading**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

A reading from Genesis, chapter 18.

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." <sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

<sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

*Genesis 18: 20-32*

### **Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup> **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup> **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup> **You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## Second Reading

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

A reading from Colossians, chapter 2.

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

*Colossians 2: 6-19*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### Gospel

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer. The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For

everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

*Luke 11: 1-13*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** (aimed toward Grades K thru 6<sup>th</sup>, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** What A Friend We Have In Jesus

**ELW 742**

## **L: APOSTLES’ CREED**

*Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer.  
Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's  
way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you.  
God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your  
Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action  
for the sake of the earth, our common home.

God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition  
we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud  
or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*.

God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life  
Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for  
responses)*

God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer, service and justice work. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships that solve problems.

God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**(Repeat whole song)**

## SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

***Remain Standing***

**+MEAL+**

*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

**Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.**



**OFFERTORY** Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring **ELW 691 (vs. 1 & 3)**

## L: OFFERING PRAYER

*For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.*

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**ELW (front) pgs. 206 - 208**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.



*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

*(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

**In the Singing ELW 466**

**Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471**

**Eat This Bread ELW 472 (sung repeatedly)**

## **L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **REMINDERS**

*(If you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern as the altar is cleared).*

## **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN Children of the Heavenly Father ELW 781**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God arr. Paul Manz**

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, July 27, 2025**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion

**Musician:** John Parsons

Assisting Minister: Keith Clark

Lector: Valerie Holcomb

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Zurell, Alan Rindfleisch, Denise Martin

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, July 27, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

### **Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

### **Thursday, July 31, 2025**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

### **Sunday, August 3, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: [churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org](mailto:churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org)

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

### **Meals for Neighbors Food Pantry**

Please consider helping us keep the MFN Food Pantry stocked. We are currently in need of

Soup/Stew    Rice    Cereal

Donations should be placed in our grocery carriage in the Fellowship Hall.  
Thank you for your kindness.

### **Gloria Dei/Meals for Neighbors Backpack Project**

We are again collecting school supplies for children of our community. Our collection is going on now through August 3. The following items are

suggested: 1-subject notebooks, Crayola crayons (24 count), pencils, black or blue pens, thin or thick markers, glue sticks, erasers, and backpacks for ages pre-K through high school. Donations can be placed in the Backpack Project shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your generosity.  
Kathy Golden