

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

August 3, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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

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

Gather Us In

ELW 532

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

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+WORD+

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

First Reading

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

A reading from Ecclesiastes, chapters 1 & 2.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

² **you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

⁷ One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹ in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

Second Reading

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

A reading from Colossians, chapter 3.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

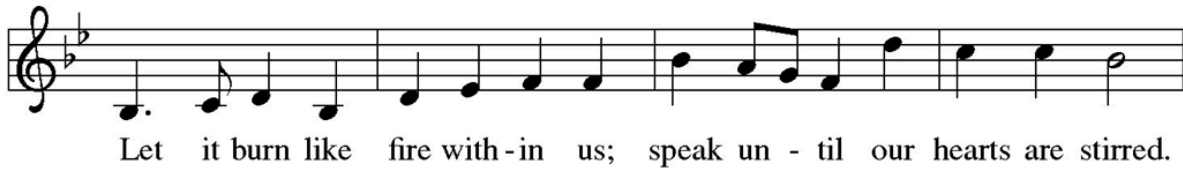
⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

Colossians 3: 1-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

Luke 12: 13-21

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light **ELW 815**

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.

A brief silence.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

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)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

**Come, Let Us Eat
Lead Me, Guide Me**

**ELW 491
ELW 768**

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 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, August 3, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Arlene Creswell

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Jon Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman, Bob Cummisky

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, August 3, 2025

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

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets (Adult Education Room)

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

9:30 a.m. Men's Group at Parkside Cafe

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

6:30 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Musicians Rehearsal

Thursday, August 7, 2025

6:30 p.m. Parish Life Meeting (Parish Life Room)

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

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

Saturday, August 9th

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class with Nancy Plourde (Parish Hall)

1:00 p.m. Faith Walks at Page Park (Park at pool/lagoon area)

Sunday, August 10, 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

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