

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
August 31, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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 (vs. 1 & 2)

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

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+WORD+

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

First Reading

The book of Sirach, like the book of Proverbs, is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. In today's reading, the writer warns against the sin of pride, proclaiming that God will utterly overthrow the proud.

A reading from Sirach, chapter 10.

¹² The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker. ¹³ For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brought upon them unheard-of calamities and destroyed them completely. ¹⁴ The Lord overthrew the thrones of rulers and enthroned the lowly in their place. ¹⁵ The Lord plucked up the roots of the nations and planted the humble in their place. ¹⁶ The Lord laid waste the lands of the nations and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth. ¹⁷ He removed some of them and destroyed them and erased the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁸ Pride was not created for human beings or violent anger for those born of women.

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

Sirach 10: 12-18

Psalm 112

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Hebrews, chapter 13.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hum - ble thy - self in the sight of the Lord, Hum - ble thy - self in the sight of the

Em Bm7 Em C D Em D C D Em

Lord; And He shall lift you up high - er and high - er, and He shall lift you up.

Gospel

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

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

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

Luke 14:1,7-14

(REPEAT ACCLAMATION)

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us *(specific ministries may be named)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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

We Praise You, O God

(vs. 1)

ELW 870

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

**Let Us Break Bread Together
 Here Is Bread**

**ELW 471
 ELW 483**

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

Change My Heart, O God

ELW 801

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, August 31, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Jill Little

Lector: Cheryl Ciano

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Jon Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman, Bob Cummiskey

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, August 31, 2025

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 3

6:30 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Musicians Rehearsal

Thursday, September 4, 2025

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

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

Saturday, September 6, 2025

10:00 a.m. MFN Board Meeting (Youth Room)

4:00 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Musicians Concert

Sunday, September 7, 2025

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

10:30 a.m. Congregational Vote and "God's Work, Our Hands" coffee hour and service project

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

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.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kathy Golden