



Sunday, August 31, 2025

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857
570-473-3770
sjelc300@ptd.net**

WELCOME

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 SONG God Welcomes All (sing 3 times) ACS 978

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.**

KYRIE



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112

read responsively

REFRAIN: The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

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. R**

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. R

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. R

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:29)*

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Come Now, You Blessed** **ACS 1059**

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.**

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.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations (leaders may be named), we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence (especially). 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.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. 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.

PEACE

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

You may share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

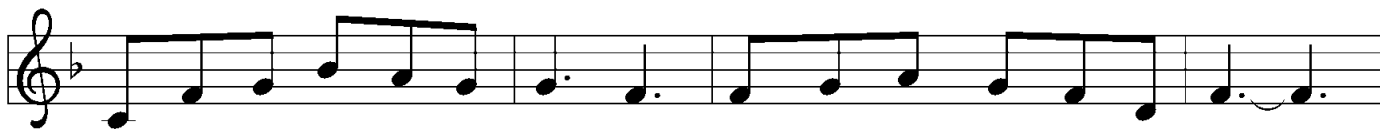
Thank you for your continued support with your offering. Offering may be placed in the offering plate on the table in the rear of the sanctuary, by mail or our on-line giving.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come To The Table



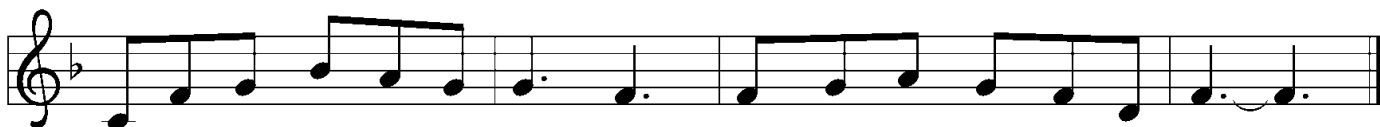
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

The assembly may be seated. Communion will be served at the altar rail. Prefilled cups with either wine or grape juice are available.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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 SONG

O Christ, The Same

WOV 778

DISMISSAL

We go now to be a light in our community, to make Christ known to all through nourishing, serving, and faith. Thanks be to God.

Pastor

Rev. Karla S. Leiby

Director of Music

William Jacavage

Greeter

Mike McWilliams

Lector

Cheryl Shellenberger

Acolyte

Communion Assistant

Holly Bedisky

Today we welcome and are led in worship by Mark Giesen, Authorized Lay Worship Leader with the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Copies of the August Messenger are located on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you missed the RSVP deadline for the Fellowship Dinner and Hymn Sing on September 7th – don't worry. You can still sign up by calling the church office this week @ 473-3770. We hope you can join us !

Worship & Music will meet on Thursday, September 4th @ 1:00 p.m.

Social Ministry is asking for donations for God's Work Our Hands. They will be assembling snack baskets for our 4 fire departments (Hookies, #1s, Tuckahoe, and Point Township) Items are: individual assorted chips; granola bars; assorted individual packs of crackers; and prepackaged individually wrapped cookies/rice krispie treats, 4 cases of water. ***All donations need to be at the church by September 7th.*** The committee will be meeting on September 10th to assemble and deliver the baskets. Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated

Seafarer bags now available. WELCA is once again sponsoring the Synod's seafarer collection for crew members who will be away from home during the Christmas holiday. Satchels are available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Inside you will find a list of items that are needed. Also on the table, there are a hat and scarf sets that were generously knitted by the group at Nottingham if you need them to complete your bag. Bags are due back to the church no later than October 26th in order to get them to Synod for transportation to New York.

Needed – 2 Sunday School teachers for the children's class. This team would teach the second Sunday of each month beginning in October. If you are interested, please see Pastor Karla or call the church office.

Attention Committee Chairperson and members – our Treasurer will be on vacation September 5-13th. If anyone needs a check, it needs to be received no later than noon on September 4th.

Catechism class begins September 21 from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. On the 4th Sunday of the month beginning September, we will also have our Intergenerational Sunday School Class and Breakfast fellowship worship. **Childrens and Adult Sunday School Classes begin October 5** at 10:15 a.m. following worship service. Everyone is invited to attend.

WELCA will be holding a Basket Raffle at our annual Christmas Bazaar in December. Let us know if you are willing to donate the items for any

of the baskets below/have a theme idea of your own, ***or*** would like to donate the money and we'll do the shopping. Money and any donated items need to be at the church by November 2nd. You don't need to wrap anything – we'll take care of that for you! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Smeltz @ 570-490-1558 or Robin Heintzelman @ 570-847-2048. **THEME BASKET IDEAS:**

- Spa basket – any type of lotion/cream, luffa sponge, candles, aromatherapy, pampering item
- Any type of kid activities/games/arts and crafts.
- Italian (pasta pot, pastas, sauces, strainer)
- Mama Mia basket – red theme towels, pizza sauce, parm cheese, pizza crust mix, pizza pan, oregano, pizza spices etc...
- Family Fun Night – assorted board games
- Movie night – popcorn, snacks, movies
- Auto care basket – bucket, cleaners, soap, rags/sponge, air freshener

This month's Special Pink envelope is designated for Evangelical Hospice.

The Quiet Cash/Noisy Coin collection is designated for Camp Mount Luther. Donations can be placed in the yellow bucket in the rear of the sanctuary.

PRAYERS: Mike Payne; Doug Manning; Sharon Pittiglio; Jen Long; Kathryn Lebo; Teresa Meisinger; Deb Shearer-Shutt; Diane Hoffman; Mary Siemsen; Brenda Drachler; Jayne Burns; Phyllis Lahr

HOMEBOUND Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' are aligned with the corresponding musical measures.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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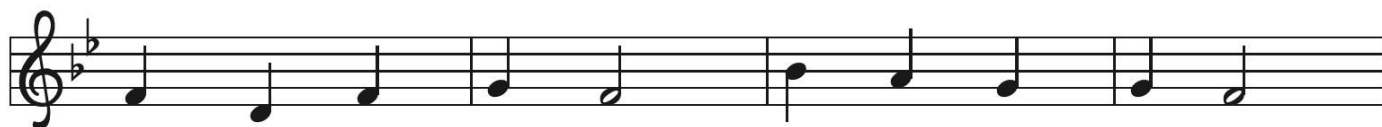
Come Now, You Blessed



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
 What have we done that you call us your own?
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.