

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM  
Second Sunday of Lent  
February 28, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

In-person worship has resumed at First English in a hybrid format (incorporating online and in-person leadership).

**Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!**

Please email Caitlyn in the office at [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

**Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!**

+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281  
Password: 408299

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

"Give Ear, O God, unto My Cry"

- Jean Drahmann

"Dessus de Cromhorne"

- Nicolas Lebegue

"Pleading Savior

- Gilbert M. Martin, *arr.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion, confessing our sin.

*Brief silence:*

Gracious God, fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

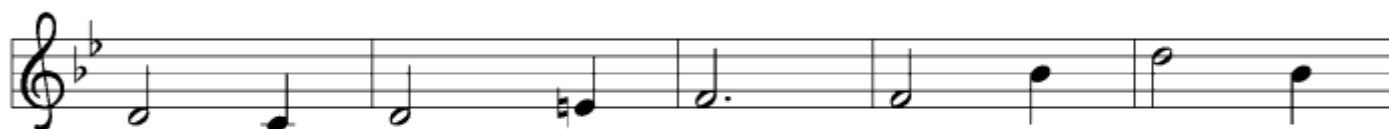
**Amen.**

**HYMN/PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

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## 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

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING      Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 22:23-31      *read responsively*

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### SECOND READING      Romans 4:13-25

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his

descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

We welcome the gospel: May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,\* by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (*Gal. 6:14*)

### **GOSPEL            Mark 8:31-38**

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN            “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”**

### **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

On this second Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, letting the requests of our hearts be made known in silence after each petition.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, and especially those who suffer for the gospel.

Let us pray for our congregation, that we may be faithful in our ministry.

Let us pray for seasonable weather.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world and in our nation.

Let us pray for our schools—their teachers, students, aides, and staff.

Let us pray for those whose home lives and relationships are under stress.

Let us pray for those who mourn the 500,000 dead in this pandemic.

Let us pray for all who are sick or suffering.

Let us pray for all who today will die.

Let us pray for the desires of our hearts.

Let us thank God for all who have gone before us in the faith.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people do give you thanks, saying:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love. 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. With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love. With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Finally, as Jesus has taught us, we are bold 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.**

#### **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Grant us your peace, Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

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, with thanksgiving.

#### **SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT**

#### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you feed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us through these forty days, that we may hunger for justice, make peace with our neighbors and the world you have made, and praise you with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### HYMN/RECESSION

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

- Georg G. Boltze

### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Ushers</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.*

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 3/1	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 3/2	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 3/3	12:00 PM	In-Person Midweek Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church
	7:00 PM	Online Book or Bible Study (details below)
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 3/4	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 3/6	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Lenten Observance with Butler Area Lutheran Ministries**

**Wednesdays at 12 pm:** In-person midweek worship at Trinity Lutheran Church (which has the largest sanctuary and best opportunity for social distancing). These services will also be streamed on YouTube and reposted for later viewing.

**Wednesdays at 7 pm:** Online book or Bible study via Zoom. Two options!

**Book Study:** Samuel Wells' *The Power and the Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection*.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965238272?pwd=WVJDWDRiS2hUOS9pWENUakNYL0tRUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 6523 8272

Passcode: 752264

**Bible Study:** Ecclesiastes.

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96973039713>

Meeting ID: 969 7303 9713

**If you would like Easter flowers, please place your order with the church office (724) 283-2378 or [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) by Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.** There is a sign-up sheet posted in the social room or you can contact the office for an order form.

### **PRAYERS**

The family of Gina Ambrosio, all those affected by the polar vortex, Marc and family, Hazel Warheit, Eleanor Roth, the family of Gene Fozard, David and Michele, the Jones family, the family of Jean Baldauf, Jamie Goehring, Jason Beckwith, and Devin, Codi, Savannah, Alyssa & Ethan, Rachel Faulkner, Graham Cannon, the family of Pastor Christine and Mark Rotella, Dewey Miller, Edna Hartman, and their loved ones; Debbie Damiano, Frida Nelson, Pam and children, the family and friends of Jake, the family of Marian Boltz, the family of Zack, Sue Morrow, Joan, Joey Lash, Andrea Dubler, Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, the family of Edgard Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **Exodus 20:1-17**

*The commandments are given at Sinai*

#### **Psalms 19**

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

#### **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*Christ crucified, the wisdom of God*

#### **John 2:13-22**

*The cleansing of the temple*