

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

**In-person worship has resumed at First English in a hybrid format (incorporating online and in-person leadership).
If you are planning to return in person and no longer wish to receive these bulletins, please let Caitlyn know.**

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at 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

"O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig"

- J.S. Bach

"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

- G.P. Telemann

"God Himself Is with Us"

- Frank Bencriscutto

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

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-12 *read responsively*

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

- ⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
- ⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *sung by choir*

GOSPEL **John 12:20-33**

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

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 fifth Sunday in Lent, let us offer both our laments and our petitions to God, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "have mercy on us."

O God, we lament that over the past months many Christians have not been able to assemble in person for worship. We pray that you would strengthen all Christians in the covenant of their baptism. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and service projects, whether online or in person. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We pray that you would continue to care for the earth you have made. Protect animals and their habitats. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds, and shelter all lands from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We lament that as a nation we have not insured justice for all and equal access to freedoms and to the necessities of life. We pray that you would guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We lament the sufferings of people the world over. We lament the sorrows of the pandemic. We lament hunger, homelessness, and loneliness. And we pray that you would guide us in healing the sick, welcoming refugees, feeding the hungry, and living with others in harmony. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We lament the hopelessness that afflicts so many people. We pray that you would lead us from sorrow to joy and help us lead others. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We lament our secret sorrows known only to you, and we ask you to receive the prayers of our hearts. *A longer period of silence.*
O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, who have given us words for our lament and our praise. At the end, bring us with all who have died in Christ into your everlasting presence. O faithful God, in your steadfast love,
have mercy on us.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, Father of glory, in your bountiful Spirit, and in the name of Christ, our great high priest, now and forever.
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 *sung by choir.*

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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Récit de Chromhorne”

- François Couperin

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Heather Helsel	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Judy Vilcheck, in honor of their granddaughter, Ashlynn Vilcheck, who is among the first group of girls to attain Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 3/22	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 3/23	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 3/24	9:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting on Zoom
	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, 3/25	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 3/27	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are planning for Holy Week and Easter Services! If you are planning on attending in-person worship on Easter Sunday, please RSVP by calling the church office or signing up on the google form: <https://forms.gle/MWnuBTGnQSWky4o99> We are trying to arrange enough seating! Thank you!

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

Call for photographs!

On Palm Sunday (March 28) we remember how a crowd strew palm branches and cloaks before Jesus' path into Jerusalem. Help us mark the festival by sending Pr. Kimberly pictures of your driveway, road, or a "path" that is special to you. If you like you can include a picture of yourself holding a sign that says, "Hosanna in the highest."

PRAYERS

Hunter, Graham Cannon, Rita Marzullo Wagner, Emma, Scott Hainley, the family of Edna Hartman, the family of Gina Ambrosio, 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, the family of Pastor Christine and Mark Rotella, Dewey Miller, 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, Tad & 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, Ralph D'Antonio.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the LORD submits to suffering

Psalms 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Mark 14:1-15:47

The passion of the Lord