

First English Lutheran Church
241 N. Main Street, Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
724-283-2378
www.firstenglishbutler.org

*First English Lutheran Church is a welcoming,
worshiping community rooted in Butler and making
Christ known in word and deed.*

Welcome to all in the name of Christ! Your presence blesses this congregation. If you would like to let us know about you, would you please either sign the guest books at the back of the sanctuary or fill out a communion card and place it in the offering plates located at the back of the sanctuary? We look forward to getting to know you!

Prayer request cards can be found in the pews and placed in the offering plate. Names will be added to the prayer list and your concerns will be shared with First English's prayer team. "Pray without ceasing!"

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

For families with children: Children's Church is suspended for the time being due to coronavirus concerns. For our young worshippers, we have bags with a "pew project" related to the scripture readings to keep hands busy during the sermon.

Financial gifts to support First English's ministry can be placed in the offering plates located at the back of the sanctuary. You can also give online by going to our website: www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving

Greeting time will take place outside following today's worship service.

Service of Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Introduction in G Major"

- William Walond

"Christ Ist Erstanden"

- J.S. Bach / Heinrich Bach

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

- Michael Costello

WELCOME

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of baptism:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

For the new life you raise up in us

Through the mystery of our baptism—

The sorrow of the empty cross,

The surprise of the empty tomb,

The love that death could not destroy.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

Poured out upon us in baptism,

Fill us with the joy of the resurrection,

So that we may be a living sign

Of your new heaven and new earth;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

zoom

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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PROCESSION OF THE CROSS *sanctuary*

Worshippers in the building are invited to turn and follow the cross as it makes its way through the worship space.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed.

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.

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31 *read responsively*

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

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

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

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

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father

has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *sung by choir*

GOSPEL **John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered,

thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

CHOIR ANTHEM

"O Blessed Spring" - Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
(Linda Mathias, *soprano* Kevin Mathias, *tenor*)

The congregation may stand.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy and righteous God, for the church, we pray: for our own God of baptism, of water and word: the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized on a wilderness road and went on his way rejoicing. We pray for those African church who connect their life to his witness, the Coptic church in Egypt and the Ethiopian Orthodox church. Strengthen their ministries amidst the challenges of war or persecution, inspire their young people to faithfulness, and give them and us unrelenting joy in the story of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God, maker of all people: your spirit led Philip to encounter someone who was very different than him. Lead your church into meaningful conversations across the differences that often alarm or confuse us. Remove from us any fear of or prejudice against another. Give us grace to know how to speak and how to listen, so that in all things we may know the joy of being made in your image. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God, our vinegrower: Your son taught us that we find true life by abiding in the vine. Help those who feel cut off from your love. Where there is despair, bring hope. Where there is anger, bring healing. Where there is willful disregard for your commandments, bring conversion. Where there is unrelenting fatigue, bring rest and relief. And hear our prayers now for those who are most on our hearts....(pause)...that all people may Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God, our hope: the only name given for health and salvation is that of your Son. Guide those who practice the art of medicine and healing: EMT's, nurses, physicians, and aides. Bless especially those who staff vaccination clinics. Restore the spirits of those who are burned out or weary. Draw their work into your unfolding purpose, that through them we may experience your life. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God, our life: by your Son's life we can expect eternal life. We remember before you those who have died this week. Comfort the people of India as they mourn those who have died in their covid surge. Shield those who grieve from further loss, and inspire us by the witness of those who have trusted in you in life and death. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers into your heart of mercy, gracious God, and where our words have fallen short, grant to us those things you see that we need, all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

The congregation may stand.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

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,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD *sung by choir*

The congregation may be seated.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Ushers will invite the congregation forward for communion. Please keep six feet of distance between you and the next group of communicants! Please cup your hands to receive the bread. You may reverence the cup of wine with a bow or with folded hands upon hearing the words, "the blood of Christ, shed for you."

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you have given the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May God, who has made from the dust of the earth, and who has redeemed you from the power of the evil one, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

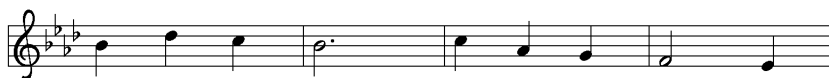
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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RECESSION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Festival Piece”

- George Blake

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Susan Farrell	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Susan Farrell and Jan Nieto	Ushers
Sue Morrow and Susan Farrell	Counters

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 5/3	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 5/4	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 5/5	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 5/6	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 5/8	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us at Lutherlyn on Sunday, May 23rd at 10 a.m. for outdoor worship followed by a catered picnic and fellowship at the Dogwood Shelter. Please RSVP to the church office by email officefelc@zoominternet.net or phone (724) 283-2378.

Beginning in June, we will no longer include printed hymns in the mail and email bulletins, but we will include the hymn names and numbers. We want to make sure everyone worshiping from home has a copy of the “red book,” *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. There are two options for obtaining a personal copy:

- Borrow one from First English and return it after the pandemic.
- Purchase a copy for your home for \$25!

The church office will arrange for the order and delivery of hymnals; please let us know which option you prefer by May 12th.

PRAYERS

Judy O. and family, Graham Cannon, Anne Ferguson, Claudia, Karen, Sandy, Anita, Joyce Hall, Kitty Walker, Nancy Hoehn, Tad & Shirley Sellers, Aryl Bashline, Jenna, Tom Olson, Pam Patterson, Renee, Linda Hall and family

If you would like to add someone on the prayer list, please send an email to officefelc@zoominternet.net.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Acts 10:44-48

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

Psalms 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

1 John 5:1-6

The victory of faith

John 15:9-17

Christ the friend and lover