

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
Ascension of Our Lord
May 16, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Outburst of Spring Triumphant” Setting/Mary Beth Bennett
(Intrada, Ostinato, Celestes, Aria)

“Awake My Heart, with Gladness” - Robert Hobby

WELCOME

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

GATHERING HYMN *zoom*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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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. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign 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 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come

upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47 *read responsively*

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING **Ephesians 1:15-23**

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *sung by choir*

GOSPEL **Luke 24:44-53**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city

until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” - Robert Williams, 1781-1821
LLANFAIR with alleluias ~ Charles Wesley, 1710-1788, *text*

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Hail the day that sees Him rise
To His throne above the skies;
Christ, awhile to mortals given,
Reascends His native heaven. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 2. | There for Him high triumph waits;
Lift your heads, eternal gates;
He has conquered death and sin;
Take the King of glory in. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 3. | Highest heaven its Lord receives,
Yet He loves the earth He leaves;
Though returning to His throne,
Still, He calls the world His own. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 4. | There we shall with Him remain,
Partners of His endless reign;
There His face unclouded see,
Live with Him eternally. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |

The congregation may stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this final Sunday of Easter, let us join one another in prayer, responding to each petition with the words, “Be with us in power and mercy.”

O God, your might upholds the cosmos, and your love sustains your people. To you, enthroned on high and enthroned in our hearts, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That Vivienne and all the baptized be witnesses to your glory, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That the earth be preserved from disastrous weather, that animals be safeguarded, and that plants be nurtured for their fruit and beauty, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That wars between nations and violence within each population cease, that all persons enjoy equal rights and respectful treatment, and that Libya, Palestinians and Israelis, and all other hurting places know peace, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That those with coronavirus be healed, that the vaccines be shared around the globe, that India, Brazil, Turkey, and other places suffering severe outbreaks receive mercy, and that future waves of the pandemic be averted, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That the sick and the suffering receive wholeness and hope, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That our private sorrows and joys be welcomed by you . . .

A brief silence.

We pray:

Be with us in power and mercy.

That at the end we join with all the saints in your everlasting kingdom, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

O God, receive our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended for us, and reigning in your glory now and forever.

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! Sing to Jesus" Red Book #392

RECESSION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Tocatta in G Major" - W. H. Pachelbel

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Judy Wadding	Crucifer
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Holly Schubert	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Marlin Boltz and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 5/17	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 5/19	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 5/20	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 5/22	12:00 PM	NA Meeting
Sunday, 5/23	10:00 AM	Worship and Picnic at Lutherlyn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We rejoice that Vivienne Gullickson receives today the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Vivienne is the daughter of Jason and Jessica Gullickson. Her sponsors are Steven and Amber Hajos. Welcome to God's family, Vivienne!

Join us at Lutherlyn next 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 Sunday, May 16th!**

Note: for the picnic, there will be chairs and picnic tables available, but you may wish to bring your own if you want to spread out. Because we are outdoors and can be fairly well-distanced, masks will not be required unless it rains and we

need to pack in tight under the shelter roof.

We look forward to hearing your voice, your instrument, and musical talent as an important part of our worship! A Summer Music Schedule is posted in the Social Hall. Please consider signing your name on the schedule for one of the Sundays in June, July or August. We look forward to hearing you at the church on your chosen Sunday. However, if you have concerns about attending in-person during the pandemic, please let us know if you would prefer to pre-record your selection of music in advance. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

PRAYERS

Freda Hudson, 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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 2:1-21

Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

Romans 8:22-27

Praying with the Spirit

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Christ sends the Spirit of truth