

**Service of Holy Communion**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 28, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| "Come, Thou Savior of our race" | - Dietrich Buxtehude |
| "Prepare the Way, O Zion"       | - Dale Wood          |
| "Listen, God Is Calling"        | - Anne Krentz Organ  |

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord God, we call for help:

**Let our prayer come into your presence.**

God of love, in this Advent season we seek your wisdom and we ask for your help and strength. Help us to know ourselves and accept our weakness. Give us the will to confess our sins, and strengthen us with your forgiving love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The congregation may kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess with our whole hearts our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, our wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts we have done to others, and the good we have left undone. Forgive us, for we have sinned against you. Raise us to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare

to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** “My Lord, What a Morning” Red Book #438

**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 - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE WORD**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*During the hymn, the children and their leaders are blessed to go downstairs for the children's church. The children's church returns to the sanctuary at the sharing of the peace.*

**FIRST READING      Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name — "The LORD is our righteousness" — proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 25:1-10** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day  
long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of

your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## **SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with

dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (next page)

## Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

## 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.

## DEDICATION OF NEW ADVENT BANNERS

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the world  
tell the story of Jesus. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all  
people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all  
peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders  
in our communities. We pray especially for those who lead police and  
fire departments, school administrations, and public works projects.  
Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, among your people are those who seek cure for illness, release from prison, relief from suffering, and forgiveness for guilty consciences. Be present to those who watch and wait. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, bring mercy to broken communities and grieving people. Bear the sorrows of the people of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Heal those who are shattered in body, and give the grieving and traumatized what they need in each moment. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you, especially Ruth. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

### THE MEAL

#### **PEACE**

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

*The congregation may share the peace by waving at those around you. Please remain in the pew where you are standing or sitting as you share the peace!*

#### **ORGAN OFFERTORY**

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” - Stephen Gabrielsen

#### **OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places...*(The presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

♩ A - men, a - men, a -  
men, a - men, a - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a -' with notes for 'A' (quarter), 'men,' (quarter), 'a -' (quarter), 'men,' (quarter), and 'a -' (quarter). The second staff continues with 'men, a - men, a - men.' with notes for 'men,' (quarter), 'a -' (quarter), 'men,' (quarter), and 'a - men.' (quarter).

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## LAMB OF GOD

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on' with notes for 'Lamb' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'God,' (quarter), 'you' (quarter), 'take' (quarter), 'a -' (quarter), 'way' (quarter), 'the' (quarter), 'sin' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'the' (quarter), 'world;' (quarter), 'have' (quarter), 'mer-cy' (quarter), and 'on' (quarter). The second staff continues with 'us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have' with notes for 'us.' (quarter), 'Lamb' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'God,' (quarter), 'you' (quarter), 'take' (quarter), 'a -' (quarter), 'way' (quarter), 'the' (quarter), 'sin' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'the' (quarter), 'world;' (quarter), and 'have' (quarter). The third staff continues with 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the' with notes for 'mer-cy' (quarter), 'on' (quarter), 'us.' (quarter), 'Lamb' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'God,' (quarter), 'you' (quarter), 'take' (quarter), 'a -' (quarter), and 'way' (quarter). The fourth staff concludes with 'sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.' with notes for 'sin' (quarter), 'of' (quarter), 'the' (quarter), 'world;' (quarter), 'grant' (quarter), 'us' (quarter), 'peace,' (quarter), 'grant' (quarter), 'us' (quarter), and 'peace.' (quarter).

## SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive; please keep 6 feet of distance between you and the next group of communicants. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *led by the assisting minister*

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

May the Lord make you grow and abound in love for one another and for all. **Amen.**

May God so strengthen your hearts that you may be blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"      Red Book #436

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE      "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"      - Peter Stearns

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. 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>
Holly Schubert	<b>Children's Church</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Susan Farrell, Jan Nieto, and Marlin Boltz	<b>Ushers</b>
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	<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, 11/29	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 12/1	7:30 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/2	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 12/3		Pastor Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 12/4	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR Meeting (Social Hall)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today we dedicate new Advent banners** for our sanctuary. Thanks to Karen Boltz, Jeannette Cunningham, Marj Rogner, and Debbie Gallagher for their hard work!



**Sundays @ Lutherlyn** continues next Sunday, December 5th for all children age 3 – confirmation age. We will gather at the Dogwood Shelter.

**Our annual Christmas Tree Drive begins today and ends on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Butler County Children and Youth Agency has reached out to our congregation to help enrich the lives of local children. We have participated in the program faithfully in the past. Last year over 300 deserving children were helped by this program. Please help again with your donation. You may use the “Specials” line of your offering envelope and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. Thank you for making this part of our Christmas tradition.

**Christmas Flowers Sign-Up Sheet** is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. If you would like a flower to take home, *please place your order by next Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>*. You may also order by contacting the church office (724) 283-2378 or [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net).

**As you are able, please continue to support First English’s ministry** financially during this time. Your gifts allow our ministry to continue. You can mail offerings into the church office (241 N. Main Street, Butler PA 16001) or give online at <http://firstenglishbutler.org/giving/>.

**Butler Hospital is now allowing pastoral visitation.** If you are hospitalized and would like Pr. Kimberly to visit, please let the church office know.

### **PRAYERS**

Deb L.; Fred Miller; the family of Ruth Walker; Bob Ringler; the McClellan family; the family of Glenn Miller; Hazel Warheit; Emma Lee and David Hartle; the family of Joyce Hall; Eric; Lisa; Jan Nieto; Kathy Kline's niece Rose; Bill and Judy Vilcheck and family; the family of Kara Greeley; the family of Larry Kline; Jeff LaLonde; the Pelgrin and Buehler family; Jean Morrow; families of Joan Chew, Henry Sinopoli, and Mark Grossman; family of Shirley Sellers; family of Barbara Petanovich and Curtis Wilbert; friend of the Swansons; Don, Betty and family; Mia Gill; Claude and all the soldiers who have been recently deployed to Kuwait as well as their families; Eleanor Roth; Joe Roudebush; Joe and Linda; Dave Konesni; Raymond Sawyer; Donna; the family of Rita Wagner; the family of Carol Duffus; Judy O. and family; Graham Cannon; Anne Ferguson; Claudia; Karen; Anita; Kitty Walker; Nancy Hoehn; Tad Sellers; Aryl Bashline; Jenna; Tom Olson; Pam Patterson

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

#### **Malachi 3:1-4**

*My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

#### **Luke 1:68-79**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

#### **Philippians 1:3-11**

*A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

#### **Luke 3:1-6**

*Prepare the way of the Lord*