

**Service of Holy Communion**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**      “Lo, How a Rose Is Growing” - Michael Burkhardt  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” - Alan Cather  
Meditation on “Veni Emmanuel” - Alfred V. Fedak

**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 wrongdoing, 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** “Savior of the Nations, Come” Red Book #263

**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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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      Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
     who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
     one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
     from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
     when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
     to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
     in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
     to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7**

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
     shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**

**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,**

**how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**

**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## **SECOND READING    Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do

your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it

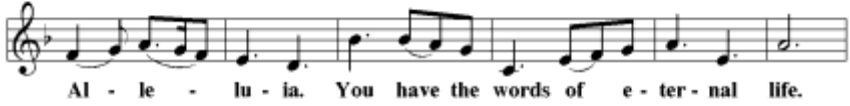
is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Canticle of the Turning”

Red Book #723

## **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

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.*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Help us see  
you at work in the places where we live and work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly.  
Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community  
organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to  
imbalances and abuses of power. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Comforting God, you promise to be with those who walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death. We pray for those who live and work  
through disaster and pandemic, especially hospital workers, relief  
workers in Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri, and all who  
grieve great loss. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to young parents and to those who are pregnant. Comfort people struggling with infertility and all others in special need today.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. We pray especially for the community dinner ministers of our congregations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. 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** "Magnificat" - Jean François d'Andrieu

**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.

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.

## 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      "Joy to the World"      Red Book #267

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE      "Magnificat"      - Samuel Scheidt

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Susan Farrell	<b>Reader</b>
Dan Morrow	<b>Crucifer</b>
Holly Schubert	<b>Children's Church</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Dan Morrow, Stan Graff, and Christiaan van Driel	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack and Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by the van Driel family.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 12/20	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 12/22	7:30 PM	Advent Service of Evening Prayer
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 12/23	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 12/24	Office Closed	Christmas Eve
	4:30 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sat., 12/25	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Zoom meeting info:**

To join online, click 'Join Our ZOOM Meeting' above.

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

To join via telephone, dial: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is actively working with partners on the group in Kentucky and all areas affected by last week's tornados to bring healing. Because of the faithful generosity of this congregation over the last year, First English was able to send \$1000 from our church budget to help with the relief effort. We encourage the First English community also to give to LDR. 100% of your gift goes to those who are affected. There are three ways to give:

- Online at [https://community.elca.org/USTornadoRelief?\\_ga=2.44141026.712239019.1639592880-1209136957.1639592880](https://community.elca.org/USTornadoRelief?_ga=2.44141026.712239019.1639592880-1209136957.1639592880)
- By phone at **800-638-3522**
- By mail. Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response; write "U.S. Tornadoes" on your check's memo line and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**ELCA Gift Processing Center**  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009





**Sundays @ Lutherlyn has been moved to First English for this Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.** All children age 3 – confirmation age are welcome to gather after worship.

**Mark Your Calendar:** The weekend of February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> the Butler churches that hold weekly community dinners for the needy in our area will be holding a fundraising Gala & Art Show & Sale at Trinity Lutheran Church. Profits from this event will benefit each of the dinners.

We are looking for individuals and businesses wanting to help by providing a donation, a basket for our raffle, or some other level of sponsorship. If you are interested in helping with this exciting weekend, please contact the church office (724-283-2378) for more details.

**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**

The family of Tamara Lehew Whitty; those affected by the shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan; the Ball family; 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**

#### **1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*The boy Samuel grew in favor with the LORD and the people*

#### **Psalm 148**

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

#### **Colossians 3:12-17**

*Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts*

#### **Luke 2:41-52**

*The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor*