

Service of Holy Communion  
First Sunday of Christmas  
December 26, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

**PRELUDE**      “Angel Sounds”                      - Steve Calderone, *arr.*  
“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!”                      - John Carter  
“The Savior Is Born”                                      - James Koertz, *arr.*

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

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

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In ☩ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**    “Once in Royal David’s City”      Red Book #269

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **FIRST CAROL**

**"Cold December Flies Away" Red Book #299**

## SECOND LESSON      Hebrews 1:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,  
"He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,  
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup>And,  
"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND CAROL

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

sts. 1, 4, & 5

Red Book#295

## THIRD LESSON

**Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## THIRD CAROL

“Love Has Come”

sts. 1 & 3

Red Book #292

## FOURTH LESSON

**Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## FOURTH CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” sts. 1, 2, 4 Red Book #279

## FIFTH LESSON

**Luke 2: 41-52**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” <sup>49</sup>He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

## FIFTH CAROL

“What Child is This?”

Red Book #296

*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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

**hear our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

**hear our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

**hear our prayer.**

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

**hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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**

“O Radiant Light”

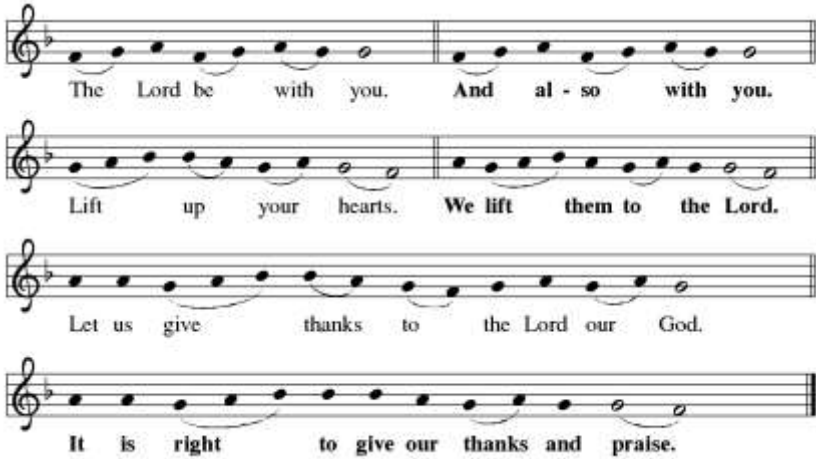
- Gerald Near

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

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the  
grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your  
salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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...*(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.  
 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 God, give you the joy of the angels, the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Red Book #288

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Cold December Flies Away" - Dale Wood

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Jeanne Graff	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Pianist; Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Pianist</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

Susan Farrell, Jan Nieto, and Larry Christy	<b>Ushers</b>
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ted and Joan Giese, in celebration of 22 years of marriage.*

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Mon., 12/27	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 12/28		Church Office Closed
Wed., 12/29	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 12/30	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 1/1	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**

**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**

Violet; the family of Bob Brandon; 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 Ringer; 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**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

**Psalms 147:12-20**

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

*The will of God made known in Christ*

**John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

*God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

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Join us for an Epiphany Service  
January 6th, 2022  
at 7:00 p.m.

Guest Preacher:  
Bishop Abraham Allende

Trinity Lutheran Church  
120 Sunset Dr. Butler, PA  
*Reception to follow.*

**Butler Area Lutheran Ministries**