

Service of Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” - Helmut Walcha
 “The Second Sunday of Advent” - Charles-Alexis Chauvet
 “On Jordan’s Banks” - Paul Manz

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 "Prepare the Royal Highway" Red Book #264

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Luke 1:68-79 *read responsively*

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation**
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of**
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING **Philippians 1:3-11**

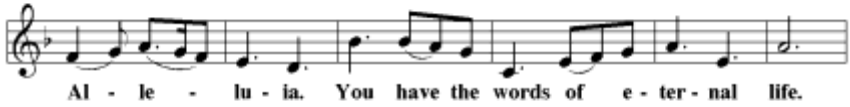
The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Red Book #249

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.**

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS AND BLANKETS

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.

Gracious and loving God, you called to us through the John the Baptist's cry in the wilderness. With our hearts turned toward you, we lift up our needs and concerns. That you would so lead us to a renewed understanding of who we are as your people. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would inspire the teaching and scholarship of seminary professors who prepare future pastors, deacons, and leaders in Christ's church. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would prepare relief for those in Afghanistan who suffer severe cold, starvation, and violence in the wake of the Taliban's takeover. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would prepare comfort for all who suffer in the wake of the shooting at Oxford High School—for those who are grieving, for those who are wounded, for those who are traumatized, and for those who first responded to emergency calls. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would restrain the actions of all who seek to claim their power through violence and unbridled rage. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would prepare healing for those who are sick, especially those who are suffering from covid, cancer, AIDS, and other serious diseases,

and that you would make way for health care equitably to reach all who would welcome it. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

That you would prepare us to commend our lives and the lives of all those who have died to your eternal safekeeping. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

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!

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Prepare for the Coming of the Lord!”
[words based on *Isaiah* 40:3-4 &
Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)]
- Lloyd Larson

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

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Red Book #246

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" - Christoph Soyka

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Emily Stein	Crucifer
Rebecca Sue	Children's Church
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Senior Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Judy Vilcheck, in honor of their grandson, Steven Vilcheck, who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 12/6	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 12/8	7:30 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/9	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	12 – 3 PM	Social Hall in use
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 12/10		Pastor Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 12/11	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sundays @ Lutherlyn has been moved to First English for December 5th and 19th. All children age 3 – confirmation age are welcome to gather after worship.

Today is the last day to order Christmas Flowers. A Sign-Up Sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. You may also order by contacting the church office (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net.



Our annual Christmas Tree Drive ends on Dec. 10th. 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.

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

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire