

**Service of Holy Communion**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 27, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

- "I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ" - Helmut Walcha  
"Prelude" - J.S. Bach  
"It Is in You, O Christ, that We Are Reconciled" - G. Norbet, O.S.B. and  
M.D. Callahan, O.S.B.

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*The congregation may kneel as able.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

“O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True”

Red Book #675

## GREETING

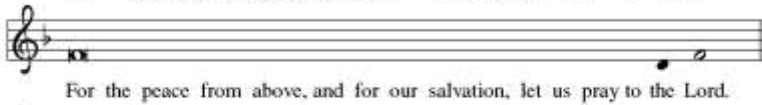
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



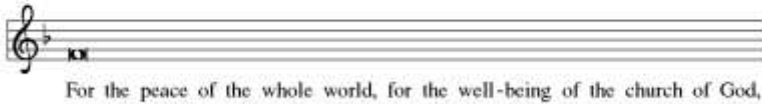
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



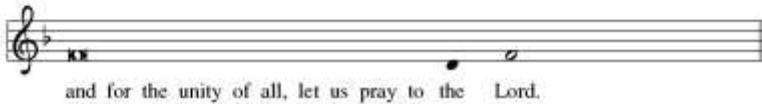
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



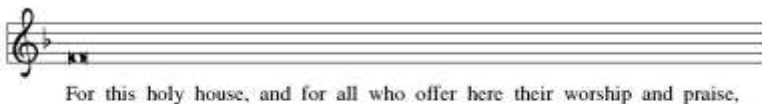
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

### FIRST READING      Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 32      *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,

because of my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

**<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**

**but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**GOSPEL      Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him

to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Red Book #588

## APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled to God through Christ our Savior, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of those in need.

Forgiving God, we pray that you would help your people become ambassadors of reconciliation. Help us understand what it means to belong to one another. Give us grace to repair broken relationships in our church, community, and our world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for peace as war rages in Ukraine. Shelter all living in fear; protect those seeking refuge in neighboring countries; sustain families separated by the horrors of war; tend to those who are injured; comfort all who mourn their dead. Direct your people into the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we pray for the renewal of this country: for leaders with integrity, courage, and humility, for citizens who treat one another with justice and kindness, for healthy and trustworthy institutions of all kinds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tender God, we lift up to you the broken-hearted in every place: those who are sick and who cry out for healing, those who are hungry and who cry out for food, those who are oppressed and cry out for liberation, those who suffer from the pandemic and who cry out for mercy, and all whom we now name before you.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, we pray that the promise your new creation would illumine our minds even as we confront the reality of death and remember our loved ones who now rest in you, especially Marlyn Dempsey. Give us hope to walk each day with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need grant for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

“Lead Me Back” - Pepper Choplin  
The Rev. Edwin van Driel, *narrator*  
(Inspired by *Luke 15:11-23*)

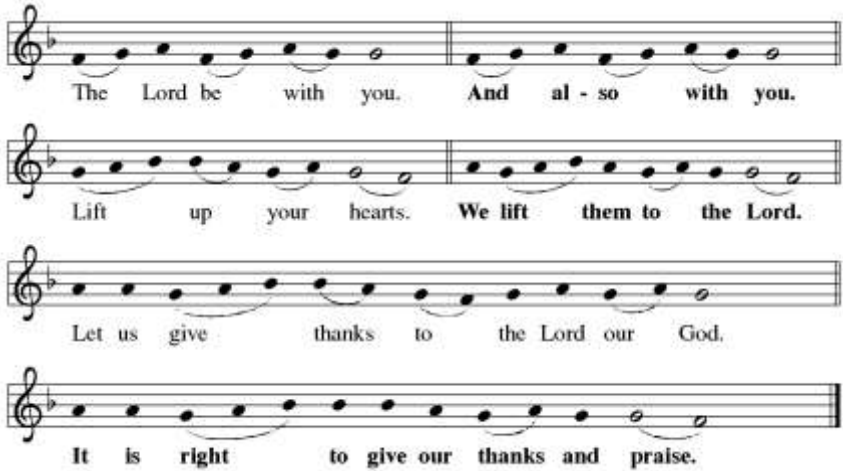
#### **OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, In whose name we pray.

**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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho -  
san-na. 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God... *(The presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command...(*the thanksgiving concludes*)...To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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

### 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.

## 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.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

“Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ” - J.S. Bach

**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*

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Jesus, Still Lead On” Red Book #624

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “Jesus, Still Lead On” - Paul Manz, *arr.*

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Susan Farrell	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Holly Schubert	<b>Children’s Church</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>

Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow, and Christiaan van Driel	<b>Ushers</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>

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

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

Mon., 3/28	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 3/30	Noon	Midday Prayer at Trinity Lutheran
	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer at First English Lutheran
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 3/31	12:30 PM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 4/1		Pastor Kimberly's Day Off
Sat., 4/2	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	9 AM - 1 PM	DAR Meeting (Social Hall)

### **ZOOM MEETING INFO:**

To join online, click 'Join Our ZOOM Meeting' in the email.

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

### **PRAYERS**

Family of Marlyn Dempsey; Michelle; baby Mac & family; family of Megan Gibson; Chrissy; family of Charlie Stitt; Jennifer Hartle Fink; Jamie McPoyle & family; family of Rob Huey; the people of Ukraine &

others affected by the conflict; Tracy Steadman & family; Cassidy; continued healing for John Negley; Tom Walker; Roberta; Cindy Regis & family; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Tad Sellers; Anne Ferguson; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson; Judy; Claudia; Karen; Anita

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We mourn with the family of Marlyn Dempsey**, who died in resurrection hope on March 19, 2022. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

**Are you curious about making First English your church home?** Join us after worship today in Pastor Kimberly's office for an introduction to the congregation. All are welcome!

**If you would like to order Easter flowers**, the sign-up sheet is posted in the Social Hall. Today is the last day to order!

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

#### **Isaiah 43:16-21**

*The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*

#### **Psalm 126**

*Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*

#### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

*To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*

#### **John 12:1-8**

*Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

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*Butler Area Lutheran Ministries*

**2022 LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

**THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**



*Wednesdays: March 9th - April 6th*

**Midday Prayer with Chancel Drama**

**Trinity Lutheran Church | Noon**

120 Sunset Drive | Butler, PA

In-Person Only

**Evening Prayer with Chancel Drama**

**First English Lutheran Church | 7 PM**

241 N. Main Street | Butler, PA

In-Person & On Zoom

(Visit [FEELC.org](http://FEELC.org) for Info)

**Offering Items for**

**Lutheran World Relief Health Kits:**

March 9: Bath Towels

March 16: Bars of Soap

March 23: Toothbrushes

March 30: Combs

April 6: Nail Clippers

*Items may be brought to Wednesday services  
or to your home congregation on Sundays.*