

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion with Healing Prayer  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

**THE GATHERING**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	"Prelude"	- Henry Purcell
	"Awake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"	- Flor Peeters
	"See Amid the Winter's Snow"	- Raymond Haan

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**INTROIT AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.*

--Ps. 62:5, paraphrase

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

O God, you know our inmost thoughts and from your sight we cannot flee. By the light of your Spirit, show us the sin for which we must give account, and by your mercy, give us courage to make our confession to you. This we ask in the name of Jesus your Son, our judge and savior.  
**Amen.**

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

*The congregation may kneel or remain standing. A moment of silence is kept.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess to you our sin in thought, word, and deed, the things we have done, and the things we have failed to do. We have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. We have wounded your creation. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. Heal what we have broken**

**and reconcile us to you, to one another, and to the earth and its creatures. Amen.**

Into our waiting hearts and waiting world, the word of God speaks,  
The word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ,  
A word of God that is meant for you.  
As a called and ordained minister of Jesus Christ and by his authority,  
I declare this word to you:  
Your sins are forgiven, and your life is handed back to you as a gift.  
Rise to greet this new day with hope. **Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

**GATHERING HYMN** "Hark, the Glad Sound!" Red Book #239

### **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 - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON AND JESSE TREE ORNAMENT**

#### **FIRST READING      Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 146:5-10**      *read responsively*

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who  
hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those  
who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of  
the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *stanza 1*

### We Are Waiting for Jesus

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957  
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen  
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

*Re-printed under onelicense.net A-734698*

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

**ORDER FOR HEALING PRAYER**

**INTRODUCTION**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace.  
Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety.  
We remember especially those for whom this time of year is difficult.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Mighty God, mercifully grant strength to the weak  
and comfort to those who suffer,  
that their sickness and pain may be turned into health.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

God of peace and reconciliation, bring an end to the sickness of the  
world, especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Holy God, Holy One, your Son prayed that your people may be one.  
May the gift of baptism be a power for healing the church's brokenness,  
and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace  
to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed, including those  
whom we name now in our hearts....Heal the pain of all who grieve.  
In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

O God, we bring these intercessions before you,  
knowing that you will hear us as you have promised,  
and will answer according to the mercy  
shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Those who wish to receive individual prayer, the laying on of hands, may come forward and kneel at the altar rail. Prayer requests may also be made by zoom chat.*

## SONG DURING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

### Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in G major. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a 4/4 time signature, followed by a 2/4 measure, and then returns to 4/4. The second system continues in 4/4. The third system concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Let all who are thirst-y, come. Let all who wish, re-ceive the wa-ter of life free-ly. A-men, come, Lord Je-sus. A-men, come, Lord Je-sus.'

Let all who are thirst-y, come. Let all who wish, re-ceive the  
wa-ter of life free-ly. A-men, come, Lord  
Je-sus. A-men, come, Lord Je-sus.

Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Taizé Community  
© 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Re-printed under [onelicense.net](http://onelicense.net) A-734698



## SONG DURING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

"Wait for the Lord"

Red Book #262

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

### THE MEAL

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

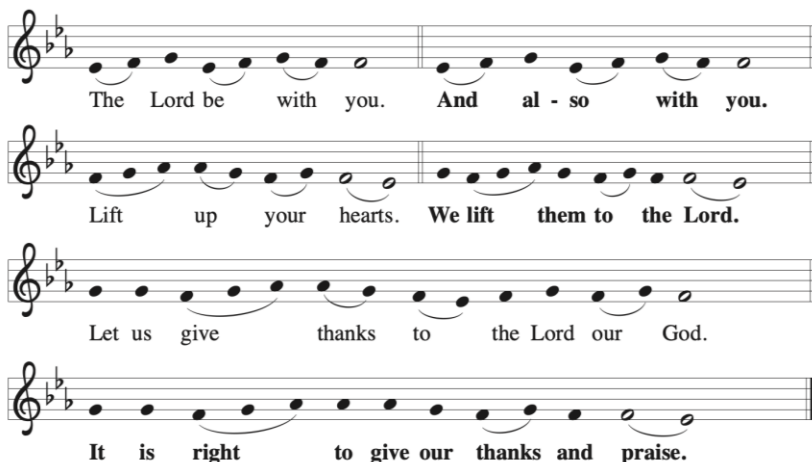
#### CHOIR ANTHEM

"Prepare Your Heart" - Hank Beebe

#### OFFERING PRAYER

*led by the assisting minister*

#### 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....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Mighty One, you have done great things for us...United at this table, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, O God, and send her into and through this gathered people, that, fed and strengthened with this holy food, we may magnify your presence in our world, until Christ comes again in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

We await his advent, O God, with all the saints of every time and place. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we 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



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The text is: "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 final note of the fourth staff is a double bar line.

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. 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.*

**HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Red Book #490

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

The God of all consolation bless you in every way, grant you hope all the days of your life, restore you to health and grant you salvation, fill your heart with peace, and lead you to eternal life, and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“People, Look East”

Red Book #248

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Lift Up Your Heads”

-Setting/John Behnke

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel The Rev. Ryan Fitch	<b>Presiding Ministers</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Susan Farrell	<b>Reader</b>
Amelia O'Rourke	<b>Crucifer</b>
Reese Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Senior Choir Director</b>

Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Karen Boltz	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Carl Devore, Susan Farrell, and Jan Nieto	<b>Ushers</b>
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	<b>Counters</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Sandy Lefebvre in memory of loved ones.*

*All are welcome to gather in the social hall for coffee hour following worship.  
Thank you to our host, Sharon Heist Miller.*

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

Monday, 12/12	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday, 12/13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 12/14	8:00 AM	Health Clinic Meeting (Social Hall)
	9:30 AM	Worship Committee Meeting
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 12/15	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 12/16		<i>Pastor Kimberly's Day Off</i>
	12-2:30 PM	Church Office Hours
Saturday, 12/17	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 12/18	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Devotions for the Advent Season based on our Jesse Tree** are available electronically as an advent calendar or on paper from the ushers.

<https://tinyurl.com/felcadvent>

**Support First English's ministry:** In thanksgiving to God, financial contributions to the congregation can be placed in the offering plate at

the rear of the worship space or made online at  
[www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving).

**As soon as you are able, please send the photo** that you would like to include in the new church directory to [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net).  
(*Preferred file types include: .jpeg; .tiff; .png; or .eps.* ) If you have any changes to your contact information that you have not yet communicated to the church office, please send those updates along with your photo. Thank you!



### **PRAYERS**

Gracie Love; Thelma Hassler; family of Davide Hartle; family of Chris Holman; family of Hazel Warheit; 6-month-old baby girl in Ohio; Jack Beiler; Karen Knepp; Zachary Sutton; Tony Sequite; Hazel Warheit; Kyle Badger; Joyce Mitchel (Matt Cooper's grandma); those affected by hurricane Ian; Brian Salisbury; Mark Vogel & family; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Stan Graff; family of Gretchen Farrell; Aryl Bashline; Patrick Frank; Holly Schubert; Ellen Dodge; Tad Sellers; Claudia; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

*The sign of Immanuel*

**Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

**Romans 1:1-7**

*Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*A God near at hand*

**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

*Liturgical portions of today's service are reprinted with permission under  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028762.*