

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

**THE GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**      “Behold, A Branch Is Growing”      - Albert Thate  
                  “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      - Alan Cather  
                  “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying!”      - Russell Schulz-Widmar

**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** “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 - 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and

peace; 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 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;
- <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## SECOND READING    **Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

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  
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**GOSPEL**      **Matthew 3:1-12**

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

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.' "

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In joyful expectation that he will come to our help, let us bring our burdens and concerns to Jesus.

Come to your church as Lord of all time. Give us traditions that nurture a living faith in you, but save us from an unthinking idolatry of the way we have always done things. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



Come to the earth as the prince of peace. Teach all who govern the riches of your power: the power to help, the power to bless, the power to seek equity for all people. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the halls of justice as defender of all who are poor. Help those who enforce laws, judge courts, and oversee prisons to change practices and policies that specially burden those who do not have wealth or power. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as faithful friend. Encourage those who are losing hope of recovering their health. Steadfastly walk with those who are in recovery, one day at a time. Bring harmony to all healing efforts—spiritual, physical, emotional. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to our congregation as purifying flame. Winnow away all efforts that no longer connect new people to your love, and give us the courage and energy to try new things, for in time, all efforts will end. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us from heaven to meet us in power and great glory, and lift us up to meet you with all your saints and angels to live with you forever. We pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The presiding minister concludes:*

To you, Lord Jesus, we entrust our prayers, trusting in your mercy.  
**Amen.**

### **THE MEAL**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

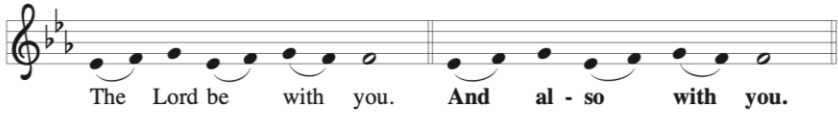
#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

"O Come, O Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

- Dean Blair

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

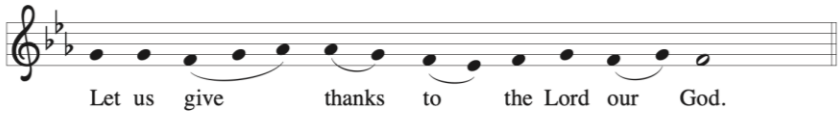
# GREAT THANKSGIVING




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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



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

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Red Book #247

## 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

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Red Book #256

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” - Paul Manz

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Christiaan van Driel	<b>Crucifer</b>
Claudia van Driel	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Senior Choir Director</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Bill and Judy Vilcheck	<b>Ushers</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>

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

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 12/5	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday, 12/6	9:30 AM	Coffee Klatch: Grandparenting in the Faith (Children’s Bibles & Stories)
Wednesday, 12/7	6:00 PM	Advent Dinner
	7:00 PM	Lessons & Carols
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Thursday, 12/8	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 12/9		<i>Pastor Kimberly's Day Off</i>
Saturday, 12/10	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 12/11	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Christmas Tree Drive Tradition:** We are collecting monetary donations for the Butler County Children and Youth Agency Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, for Christmas 2022. With our help, we can continue to make Butler County a place where children and families are happy and thriving. This program has been around for many years because of the need and sustained through our participation in it. Please use the specials line of your offering envelope and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. God bless you.

Thank you, Karen Domanski

**Christmas Flowers Sign-Up Sheet** is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. *Please place your order by today, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.* You may also order by contacting the church office (724) 283-2378 or [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net).

**Advent Dinner & Worship – Everyone is invited** to celebrate the beginning of the advent season at a dinner to be held this Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will begin at 6 PM and will be followed by a service of Lessons & Carols. The meat selection and beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the social room with space for your name, the number attending, and a dish you would like to bring to share with others. Come and join in the fellowship of the season!

**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/felcadvnt>

Next week, **December 11**, there will be an opportunity for healing prayers during the 10 a.m. worship service.

**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).

### **PRAYERS**

Family of David 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 35:1-10**

*The desert blooms as God's people return from exile*

#### **Psalms 146:5-10**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

#### **James 5:7-10**

*Patience until the coming of the Lord*

#### **Matthew 11:2-11**

*The forerunner of Christ*

### **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

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