

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| "The Life of the Blessed" | - Michael Praetorius |
| "Chorale Prelude on 'Melcombe' " | - C. Hubert H. Parry |
| "Children of the Heavenly Father" | - Setting/ Aaron David Miller |

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit † one God,
who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection. The congregation may kneel as desired.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We
have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have
done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with
our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the
sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,**

and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Red Book #873

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.

GLORY TO GOD

page 121-122 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving

acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 *read responsively*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their
word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of

noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
 Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As Saints of Old”

Red Book #695

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

In the Beatitudes, our Lord Jesus promises the upside-down blessings of God. To live into these blessings invites us to prayer.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Give all people who are called by your name a faith stripped of possessiveness and arrogance. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." In this harsh age, fill our hearts with gentleness and our mouths with kind words. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." We lift up to you the mourning in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California, and all those who need a special measure of your love and care.... In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled." Help us work for a nation free of hatred and full of hope and safety for all people. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Give strength and vision to those in the business of second chances, especially those who work in halfway houses and prison re-entry programs. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." Free us from evil desires, selfish ambition, and unrestrained greed. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Give strength to those who seek peace in Ukraine, Haiti,

Afghanistan, and the Holy Land. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for the kingdom of heaven in theirs." Give us leaders who are willing to bear the cost of honesty and transparency, and help us also always stand up for what is right. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, Lord Jesus, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting that you will fulfill all your promises: **Amen.**

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Blessed Are the Pure and Merciful" - Jack Kunz

(text paraphrased from the *Beatitudes*)

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-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 God, holy and mighty... (*the thanksgiving continues*)... Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as one family and with one voice, 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.

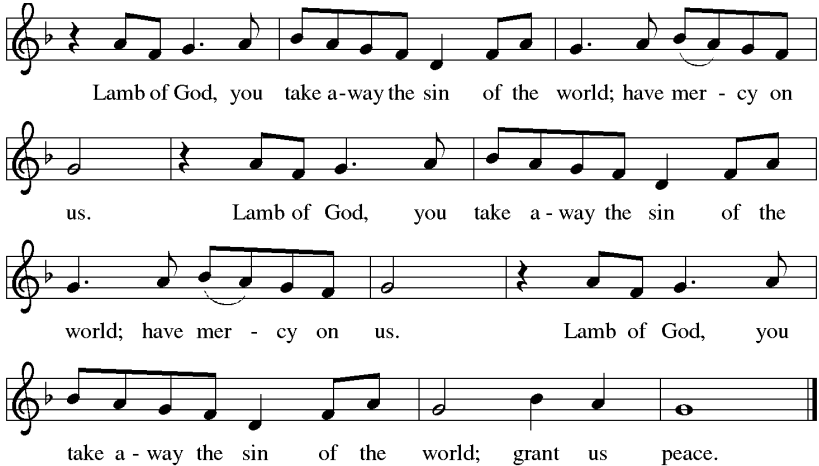
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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.

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 Who Are Thirsty, Come

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is indicated by a common time signature (C) at the beginning of each system. 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." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"To Be Your Presence" Red Book #546

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Arise, My Soul, Arise!" - Setting/ Dale Wood

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Larry Hamil	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Judy and Bill Vilcheck	Ushers
Karen and Bob Domanski	Counters

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 hosts, Jessie and Josh Kamerer.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 1/30	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 2/1	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 2/2	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 2/3		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
Saturday, 2/4	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 2/5	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to make First English your church home? First English will receive and celebrate new members on February 26. Please speak to Pr. Kimberly if you are interested in formally joining the congregation.

Save the dates!

Lent-to-go Intergenerational Event, Sunday, Feb 19

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 21

Ash Wednesday services 12:15 and 7:30 p.m., Feb 22

First English Visit to Congregation B'nai Abraham, March 3, 7 p.m.

Please email the photo that you would like to include in the new church directory to officefelc@zoominternet.net. 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!

E-prayer Chain! Did you know that First English has an E-prayer chain?

This email list reaches a dedicated group of praying folks as prayer concerns arise. If you would like to join the prayer chain or submit a request, please contact MaryAnn Swanson at mswan52@zoominternet.net.

Note on Offering Envelopes: Did you know that there are ways that you can help our counters and financial secretaries keep the most accurate records of your giving? Please put the total amount of your donation on

the front of your envelope. (If you put it upside down in the offering plate, it will still be confidential).

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.



PRAYERS

Family of Ryan Glagola; family of Pete Huff; Mary & Steve and foster children; Janice Krause; Vonnie Baker; Shirley Mould; Dave Adams; Tracy Steadman; family of Paul Throm; Jim Cunningham; Gracie Love; Thelma Hassler; family of David Hartle; family of Chris Holman; family of Hazel Warheit; 6-month-old baby girl in Ohio; Karen Knepp; Zachary Sutton; Tony Sequite; 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; Aryl Bashline; Patrick Frank; Holly Schubert; Ellen Dodge; Tad Sellers; Claudia; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

The fast God chooses

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit

Matthew 5:13-20

The teaching of Christ: salt and light

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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