

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Will of God Is Always Best” - Friedrich W. Marpurg
“Andante, Fugue and Chorale” - Healey Willan

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

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

Red Book #582

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. O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience.

Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:1-8 *read responsively*

- ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
 who follow the teaching of the LORD!
²**Happy are they who observe your decrees
 and seek you with all their hearts,**
³who never do any wrong,
 but always walk in your ways.
⁴**You laid down your commandments,
 that we should fully keep them.**
⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
 that I might keep your statutes!
⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
 when I regard all your commandments.**
⁷I will thank you with a true heart,

when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**⁸I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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 5:21-37

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to

lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Red Book #772

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

Gathered into one in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

That your Spirit's energy may stir the church to be a reconciling presence in the midst of a broken and hurting world, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That You would be powerfully present to those in great distress, especially those in Turkey and Syria who suffer in the wake of the earthquake, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That this nation may be blessed with truthful and kind speech and dedication to the common good, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who are struggling in their relationships with their spouses, partners, and or families may be directed in their words and actions by your voice, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who experience emotional distress, physical pain, deep fatigue, or mental anguish find comfort and healing of all kinds, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be encouraged by the witness of those who have gone before us (especially....) and that we may live until we die trusting in your promise of resurrection, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

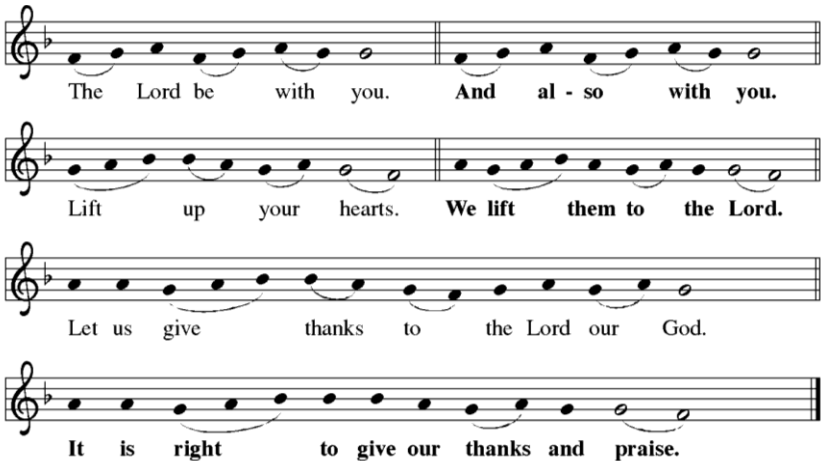
CHOIR ANTHEM

“God Be in My Head”

- G. A. Grant-Schaefer

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.

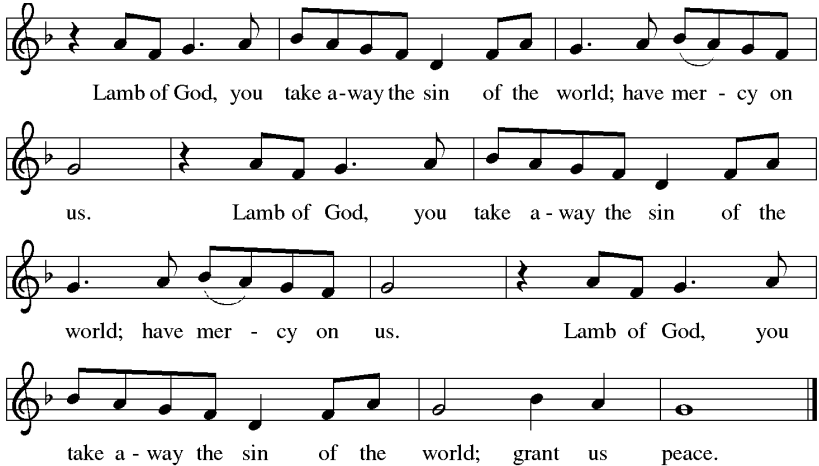
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

“Jesus, We Are Gathered” Red Book #529

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

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing” Red Book #544

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word” - Plainsong Melody

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist

Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Karen and Bob Domanski	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Karen and Bob Domanski, in honor of Bob's 81st birthday.

All are welcome to gather in the social hall for coffee hour following worship.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 2/13	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 2/16	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 2/17		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
Saturday, 2/18	9 AM - 3 PM	Council and Leadership Retreat (Lutherlyn Woodland Lodge)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 2/19	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)
	11:15 AM	Intergenerational Event (Social Hall)
	2-4 PM	Love Your Neighbor Gathering (Diamond Park)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kimberly is away from February 10-12. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact our pastor-in-residence, Pr. Ryan Fitch, at 570-768-7460.

Lenten Intergenerational Event – Next Sunday, February 19th following the worship service! Make plans to join us for a soup lunch and Lenten activities for all ages!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 21st beginning at 5:15 pm.
Please sign up in the social hall if you plan to attend.

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 Date! First English Visit to Congregation B'nai Abraham,
Friday, March 3rd at 7 p.m.

Lenten Concert - Songs of Hope and Healing on Sunday, March 19th at 3 pm. Featuring Signe Mitchell, piano and organ, Kevin Mathias, organ, and Linda Mathias, voice. Join us and bring a friend!

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!

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.

Lent at First English

Sunday, February 19th - Transfiguration
Intergenerational Event

following the 10 am Worship Service

Wednesday, February 22nd - Ash Wednesday

Brief Spoken Service

with Imposition of Ashes at 12:15 pm

Service of Holy Communion

with Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 8th

Lenten Evening Prayer at 7 pm

Sunday, March 19th

Lenten Reflections at 3 pm

Saturday, March 25th

Quiet Day for Lent from 9 am - 3 pm

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday

Worship at 10 am

Thursday, April 6th - Maundy Thursday

Service at 7 pm

Friday, April 7th - Good Friday

Service at 7 pm

Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunday

Worship at 10 am

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

- **7.8 magnitude quake struck early February 6**
- **Hundreds of lives lost and buildings destroyed**
- **Urgent needs include food, shelter and water**

YOU CAN HELP NOW!

lwr.org/quake

 LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



PRAYERS

Family of Joyce Mitchel; Ann Johnson; Jeff Turner; 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; 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

Exodus 24:12-18

Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai

Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (*Ps. 2:7*)

2 Peter 1:16-21

The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9

Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

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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