

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" - Marcel Dupré and Jan Bender
"Deo Gracias" - Wilbur Held
"How Good, Lord, to Be Here" - Hugo Gehrke

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

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” sts. 1, 2, 4 Red Book #308

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

page 120 in the front of the red book

GLORY TO GOD

page 121-122 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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 sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2 *read responsively*

¹Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,

against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?

³“Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

**⁴God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶“As for me, I have anointed my king

upon Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD,

who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰**And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 17:1-9

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair”

Red Book #316

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

Called together to follow Jesus, let us bring our concerns and requests to God.

Loving God, your Son revealed his glory in a blaze of light on the holy mountain. On this day, we bring before you those who need his light and encouragement in their daily life.

On those who work in the church but who have become disheartened or disillusioned, we pray: **Let your light shine.**

On the leaders of the nations, that they may seek the welfare of all people, amidst challenges of war, migration, and climate change, we pray: **Let your light shine.**

On victims of disaster, especially in Turkey and Syria, and on all others whose suffering goes unnoticed and unreported, we pray:
Let your light shine.

On those drawn to other gods and easier loyalties, those who are too seduced to resist or too disenchanted to care, we pray:
Let your light shine.

On those who need healing or special prayers at this hour, especially those whom we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts.....we pray: **Let your light shine.**

On those unable to love themselves, and those unable to love beyond themselves, we pray: **Let your light shine.**

Within our hearts, O God, that we may trust in resurrection even to the moment of our death, and that we may commend our beloved dead to your care, we pray: **Let your light shine.**

Into your hands, O God, we entrust all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

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

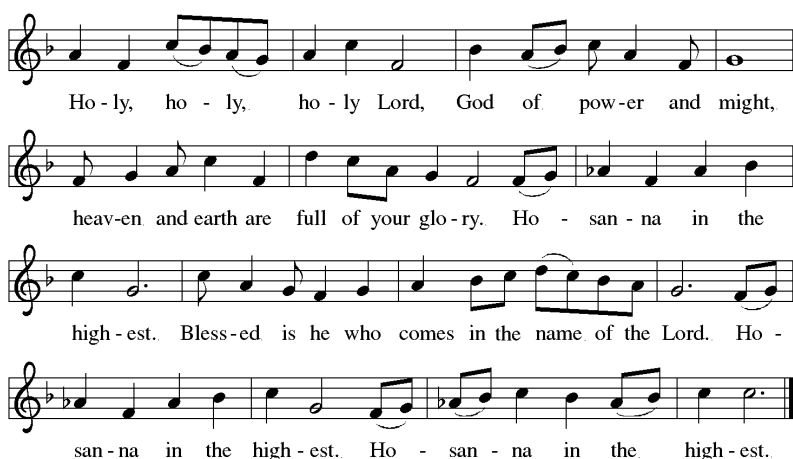
CHOIR ANTHEM “Behold the Lord Transfigured”

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

“Come, Beloved of the Maker”

Red Book #306

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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Red Book #815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"

- Finnish Folk Tune

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Evan Stein	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

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

The Lenten intergenerational event is today following the worship service.

Join us for a soup lunch and Lenten activities for all ages!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 2/20	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday, 2/21	5:15 PM	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Thursday, 2/23	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 2/24		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>

Saturday, 2/25	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 2/26	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please note: the Love Your Neighbor Gathering will actually take place from 2-3 p.m. today!

Reminder: Submissions for the March Newsletter are due in the church office tomorrow, February 20th.

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 next Sunday, February 26. Please speak to Pr. Kimberly if you are interested in formally joining the congregation.

First English Visit to Congregation B'nai Abraham, Friday, March 3rd at 7 p.m. The Jewish congregation in Butler has invited Christian congregations to share in their weekly worship service during a time of rising anti-Semitism. First English will attend on March 3, at 7 p.m. Congregation B'nai Abraham is located at 519 M. Main Street. In order

for the synagogue to prepare, we need to let them know how many of us will attend. Please sign up in the social hall or contact Caitlyn in the church office at officefelc@zoominternet.net or 724-283-2378.

Support the Butler community dinners and color your world with art, appetizers, and music on Saturday, March 11th from 6-9 pm at St. Michael's Social Hall on Center Avenue. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Tracy Gullickson, Jan Nieto, or MaryAnn Swanson. If you'd prefer to just see the art and the baskets, you can go to St. Mike's Social Hall on Sunday from noon to 3 pm for no ticket charge. Please consider supporting the community meals in Butler by attending this colorful, fun celebration of art, music, food, and wine.

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.

PRAYERS

Family of Madaline Golic; 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

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**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Psalms 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

Romans 5:12-19

Death came through one; life comes through one

Matthew 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

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.*