

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
First Sunday of Lent
February 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

- Flor Peeters

"Prière"

- Joseph Jongen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ☩ one God, who sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

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

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

Red Book #618

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

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

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that

their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 *read responsively*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of

trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near
you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For

just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL **Matthew 4:1-11**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw

yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As Your Spirit in The Desert”

(back page of this bulletin)

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**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.

WELCOME

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

By your Word, O God, you guide your people through the wilderness. As the church walks through times of change, give vision and wisdom to all entrusted with the ministry of administration, especially Kurt and Elizabeth, our bishops, and all their staff. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Save us, we pray, from disordered desires for things, power, and knowledge. Help us trust that this good world remains yours despite the power of evil, and help us to resist whatever is not from you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love. We remember especially children who have lost their parents or caregivers in disasters

or war; people who must migrate to find safety, and all who respond to their needs. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a source of hope and healing. Hear us now as we name those people and concerns most on our hearts....

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially our ushers, our health and safety committee, and those who assist with coffee hour. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After sharing the peace, the congregation may sit.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” - American Folk Melody
Annabel Buchanan (1938), *arr.*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Red Book #188

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

GREAT THANKSGIVING



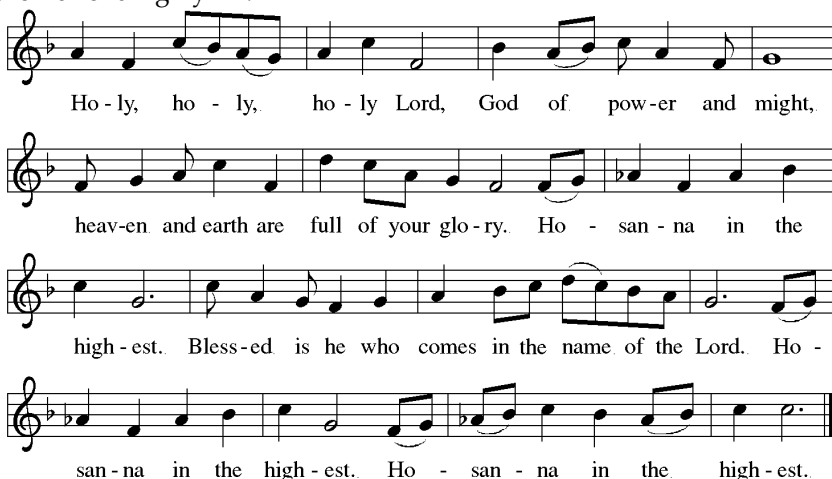
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...(the presiding minister continues giving thanks).... Therefore, according to his command, O God:

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon ...(the presiding minister continues)... In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of

your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

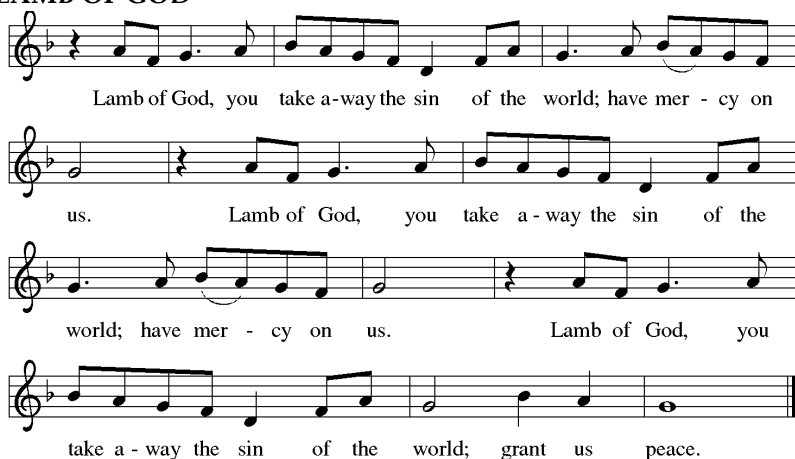
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

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

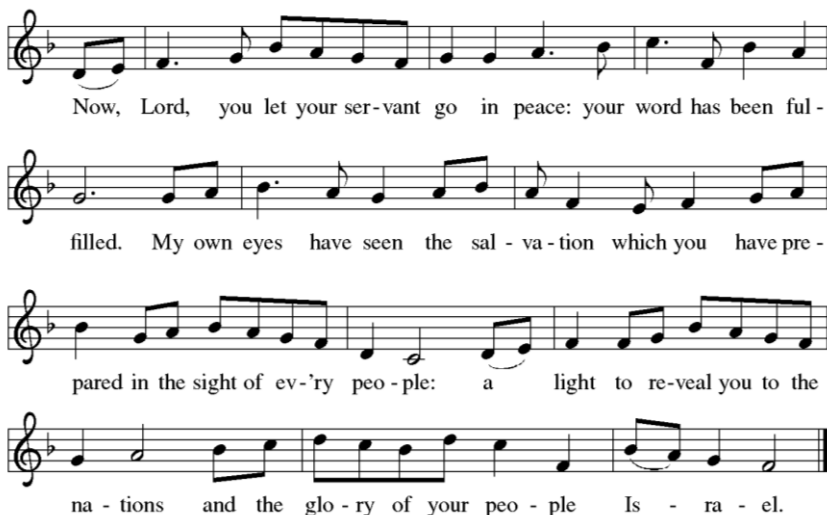
All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *led by the assisting minister*

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Red Book #325

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

- Jeffrey Honoré

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Tracy Gullickson	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Stan Graff, Christiaan van Driel, and Andrew O'Rourke	Ushers
Karen and Bob Domanski	Counters

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Signe Mitchell, in memory of loved ones.

All are welcome to gather in the social hall after worship for a special coffee hour honoring our new members.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 2/27	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 3/2	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 3/3		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
	7:00 PM	Visit to Congregation B'nai Abraham
Saturday, 3/4	9 AM -1 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

Sunday, 3/5	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate new members who have joined our congregation over the last six months: Heidi and Dennis Herrit, Lois Trimbur, Chuck McMichael, Kathy Gilkey, Eric Love, Grace Love, and Sandy Radziwon. Welcome!

There will be NO 9 a.m. Bible Study Sunday, February 26th.

Worship Notes: During the season of Lent, several changes happen in the liturgy to mark the reflective and somber character of the season. During the gathering part of the service, only the Kyrie with its mournful “Lord Have Mercy” is used; the hymn of praise is omitted until Easter. At the offertory, as the gifts of bread and wine come forward, we will also be singing words from the penitential psalm 51 – “Create in Me a Clean Heart.” (The singing of an offertory hymn was suspended during the pandemic). Finally, this Lenten order re-introduces the canticle after communion, “Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.” The words of this song help us remember that in bread and wine, we have indeed seen Christ’s presence.

Trinity Lutheran Church (120 Sunset Drive) will host midweek prayer every Wednesday during Lent at noon. Pr. Kimberly will be assisting with the services. All are welcome.

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. Congregation B’nai Abraham is located at 519 N. Main Street. For the synagogue to prepare, we need to let them know how many of us will attend. Please sign up on the table in the social hall or contact Caitlyn in the church office at officefelc@zoominternet.net or 724-283-2378.

Lenten Evening Prayer will be offered March 8th at 7 p.m.

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!

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

John 3:1-17

The mission of Christ: to save the world

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.*

As Your Spirit in the Desert



1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to
3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may
4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's
5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing
pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the
jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the
thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the
ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.
wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.
wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ROSEVILLE, Michael D. Costello, b. 1979

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