

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Molto sostenuto e devoto"	- Flor Peeters
"Canzona"	- Andrea Gabrieli
"If God My Lord, Be for Me"	- <i>setting</i> / Franklin Ashdown

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

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

Red Book #658

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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock

to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question — “Is the LORD among us or not?” — received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95 *read responsively*

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸"Harden not your hearts,

as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

⁹There your ancestors tested me,

they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,

'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith. The text is not printed due to its long length.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Red Book #807

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

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

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Give us joy in sharing the story of Jesus with the world that you love, and give congregations of different denominations the will to cooperate so that others can see your love at work in the world more clearly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the preservation of creation. Give us wisdom to restore the health of places where air, soil, and water has been poisoned. Today, we remember especially East Palestine, Ohio; Flint, Michigan; and Jackson, Mississippi. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Help countries that experience tensions around ethnic diversity to live in peace. We pray for the people of Ethiopia, India, and for our own nation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness (*especially*). Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Give us the will to discover where our vision is lacking and our hope is too small. Give us grace to discover again how we are rooted in Butler and can serve your word in this place. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints, and especially for the ways their faith in you sustained lives of service. Encourage us with the hope they shared 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

“God Is a Spirit”

(John 4:23-24)

- C. Albert Scholin

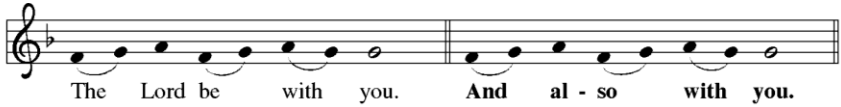
OFFERING HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

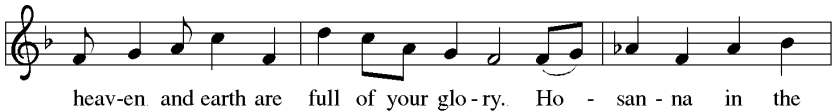
Red Book #188

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:



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 Christians 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Jesus, Name All Names Above”

- Johann Schop

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 Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Red Book #611

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Blessed Is He”

- François Couperin

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Preacher
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister
Larry Hamil	Reader
Evan Stein	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Carl Devore, Susan Farrell, and Jan Nieto	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 3/13	10:00 AM	Sabbatical Committee Meeting
	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday, 3/14	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 3/15	9:30 AM	Worship Planning Meeting
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thursday, 3/16	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

Friday, 3/17		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
	9 AM – 12 PM	Office Operating Remotely
Saturday, 3/18	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 3/19	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)
	3:00 PM	<i>Songs of Hope and Healing Concert</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



The Butler Clergy Network is making “We love all our Neighbors” yard signs available for order for your home or business! The signs are 18" x 24", and they come with metal stakes to put them in the ground. They can be either single sided (\$10) or double sided (\$15). Subsidies are available for those for whom the cost is a financial hardship. A sign-up sheet is available in the social hall after worship, or you may order online at <https://forms.gle/JPgTNi48oq2p53ES8>. Deadline is March 13.

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.

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!

If you would like to order Easter flowers, the sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Please place your order by Sunday, March 19th.

Join us for a **Lenten Quiet Morning** from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on March 25th.

A Quiet Morning is a short period of time devoted to personal and corporate prayer, reflection, and Scripture reading. Snacks will be provided. Refresh your spirit as we prepare for Holy Week! A sign-up sheet is available in the social hall or contact Caitlyn in the church office to RSVP.

Are you a worshiper on Zoom? Following the worship service on Sunday, March 26th, we'll host a zoom check-in for all our zoom worshipers. We'll be talking about ways to stay connected and possibilities for participation in worship leadership. Pr. Kimberly will also give an update on our church's thinking on the practice of online communion. We look forward to seeing you on screen!

Please Note: The last day to submit a photo for the directory is Sunday, March 26th!

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

Rose Cooper; Sue Lehew; Beth Weber; 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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

David is chosen and anointed.

Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

Ephesians 5:8-14

Awake from sleep, live as children of light

John 9:1-41

Baptismal image: the man born blind

*Lent & Holy Week
at First English*

Wednesday, March 8th

Lenten Evening Prayer at 7 pm

Sunday, March 19th

Lenten Concert at 3 pm

Saturday, March 25th

Quiet Morning for Lent
from 9 am - 12 noon

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday

Worship at 10 am

Thursday, April 6th - Maundy Thursday

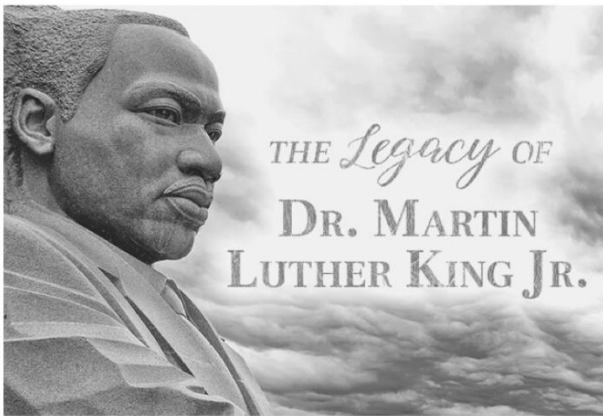
Dinner Church at 6:30 pm

Friday, April 7th - Good Friday

Service at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunday

Worship at 10 am



THE *Legacy* OF
DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.

**SUNDAY,
MAR 26
@ 4 PM**

An Ecumenical Service of
Holy Communion & Call for
Anti-racist Action

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church
& Livestreamed

[SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MLK23](https://swpasynod.org/calendar/mlk23)

PREACHING

Rev. Dr. Ava Lee
President, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary



PRESIDING

Bishop Abraham Allende
and
Bishop Kurt Kusserow



SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA



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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