

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Wondrous Love"	- Sarah Douglas
"Open the Eyes of My Heart"	- Paul Baloche
"Lenten Song"	- Dennis Eliot

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

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Red Book #324

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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set

out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *read responsively*

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

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 9:1-41

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God. 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

“What Wondrous Love”

Red Book #666

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.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the highest mountain to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. We pray for Joseph, our president, Josh, our governor, and Bob, our mayor. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially those whom we name now aloud or in our hearts..... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice and bless the work of community dinners teams at this congregation and at congregations through this city. Give them what they need as we feed more and more people, and nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (*especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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

"Light Everlasting"

- O.C. Christiansen

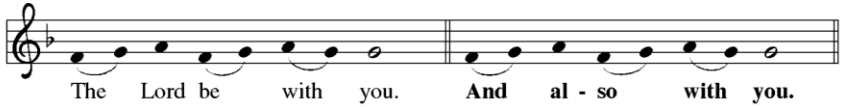
OFFERING HYMN

"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

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

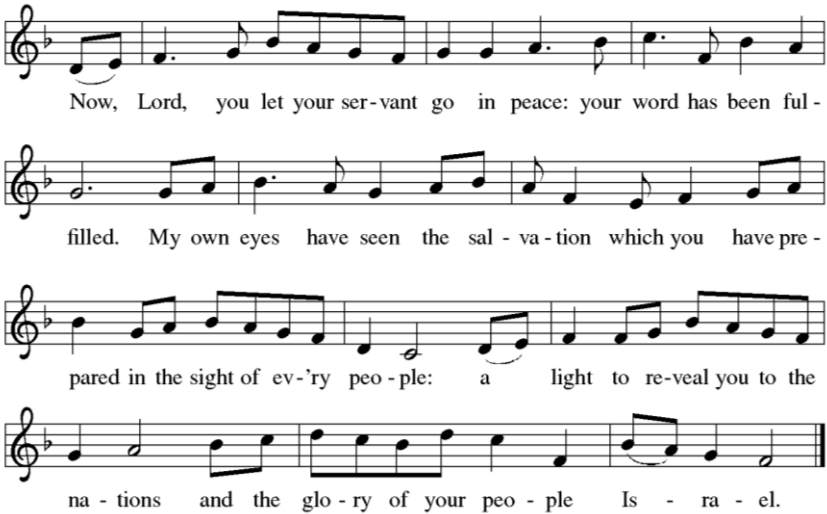
All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but 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

“Be Thou My Vision”

Red Book #793

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

- William H. Doane

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Amy Beiler	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Shane Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Karen and Bob Domanski; Brenden Stevens	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	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, 3/20	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 3/23	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 3/24		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
Saturday, 3/25	9 AM – Noon	Lenten Quiet Morning
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 3/26	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: There is an usher meeting in the sanctuary immediately after church today.

Lenten Concert - Songs of Hope and Healing today 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. Today is the last day to order!

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 signup 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!

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.

On Maundy Thursday, the church remembers Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his great commandments to love, serve, and break bread together. This year, the Maundy Thursday liturgy will take place as a dinner church starting at 6:30 p.m. We'll gather in the social hall to share a meal and hear and reflect on words of scripture. The service ends with prayer in the sanctuary and the stripping of the altar. All are welcome,

but it helps us prepare if we have a rough idea of who may attend. If you plan to attend the in-person service, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the social hall. There will be a zoom option (with special zoom plans!) available also. If you plan to zoom, please let Pr. Kimberly know by phone or email: pkfelc@zoominternet.net.

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

Alysia Shaffer; Donny Bayless; Rose Cooper; Sue Lehw; 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones of Israel brought to life

Psalm 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Romans 8:6-11

Life in the Spirit

John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

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.*

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.

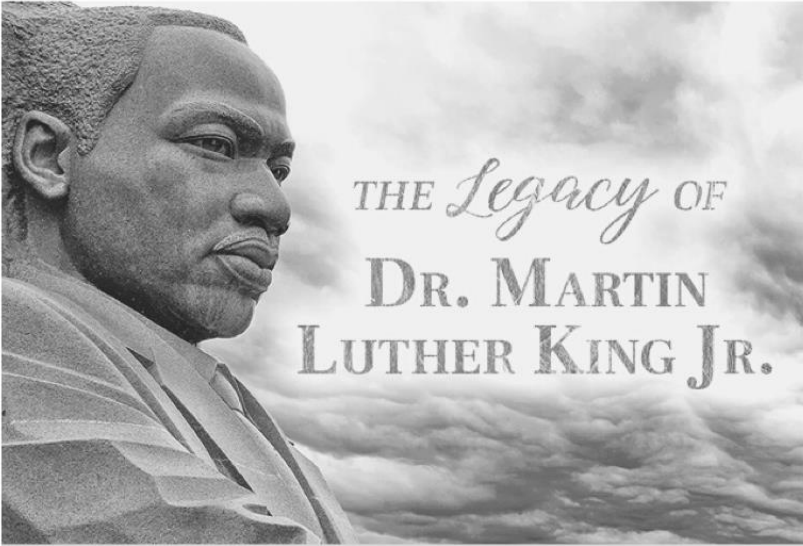
Dinner Church at 6:30 pm

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

PREACHING

Rev. Dr. Asa Lee
President, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary



PRESIDING

Bishop Abraham Allende
and
Bishop Kurt Kusserow



SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

