

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“For God So Loved the World” - Melchior Frank
“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” - Gerhard Krapf
“Lord, Have Mercy” (from People’s Mass by Jan Vermulst) - Alice Jordan, *arr.*

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

"This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

Red Book #448

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. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 *read responsively*

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹**What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?** ²**For if Abraham was justified by works, he has**

something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3:1-17**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When it Seems the Day Will End



1 When it seems the day will end, and all
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
gain, and with you now en - ter in.
been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing, in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980

Music: HUMBLE WALK, Justin Rimbo

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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.

That those among your people who hide their true selves, their questions, and their fears from others may experience freedom in the grace of being truly known by You, O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

That the descendants of Abraham: Jews, Christians, and Muslims, may live in peace in the land we all call holy, O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

That those suffering invasion, disaster, or unjust imprisonment--those for whom daily life feels like one long night--may see the dawn of hope rising in their hearts, O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

That the people most on our hearts and minds today may receive from your hand all that they need, especially.....O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

That you would bless the work of those who serve this congregation through technology: our AV and PowerPoint ministers, those who tend our website, bulletin, and newsletter, O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

That the hope of eternal life may be a reality for your people, the church, and that we may commend all those who have died in Christ to your care, O God, we pray:

Have mercy and hear us.

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 So Loved the World”

- David H. Williams

(John 3:16)

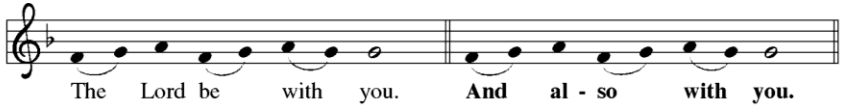
OFFERING HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

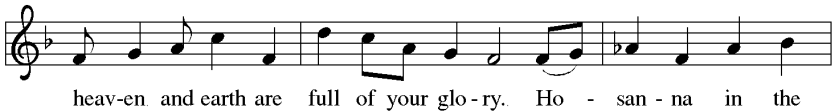
Red Book #188

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 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

“Psalm 121: I Will Lift Up My Eyes”

- Linda Mathias

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

"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

Red Book #451

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

- Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Preacher
Lois Trimbur	Assisting Minister
Susan Farrell	Reader
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
Judy and Bill Vilcheck	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ramona Schmidt in memory of loved ones.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 3/6	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 3/8	7:00 PM	Lenten Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, 3/9	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	3:00 PM	Worship Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)

Friday, 3/10		<i>Pastor Kimberly's day off</i>
Saturday, 3/11	11AM - 4 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
	6:00 – 9:00 PM	Community Dinner Gala (St. Michael's)
Sunday, 3/12	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Evening Prayer will be offered March 8th at 7 p.m. Come and join in an evening of chant, song, and reflection on the nature of Christian community.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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 & 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

PRAYERS

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

Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the rock in the wilderness

Psalm 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

Romans 5:1-11

Reconciled to God by Christ's death

John 4:5-42

Baptismal image: the woman at the well

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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