

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Strife Is O’er”

- G. Winston Cassler

Partita on “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” - Setting/Mark Sedio

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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

“The Risen Christ”

Red Book #390

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

THIS IS THE FEAST

page 122 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God’s plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 *read responsively*

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

**⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

**⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are
pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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 John 20:19-31

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have

seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing" sts. 1, 5-8 Red Book #386

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to
a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly
share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O
God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of
healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains.
Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear
us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders, especially our congregational staff and council. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships for all ages, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love (*especially*). Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After sharing the peace, the congregation stands to sing:

OFFERTORY HYMN

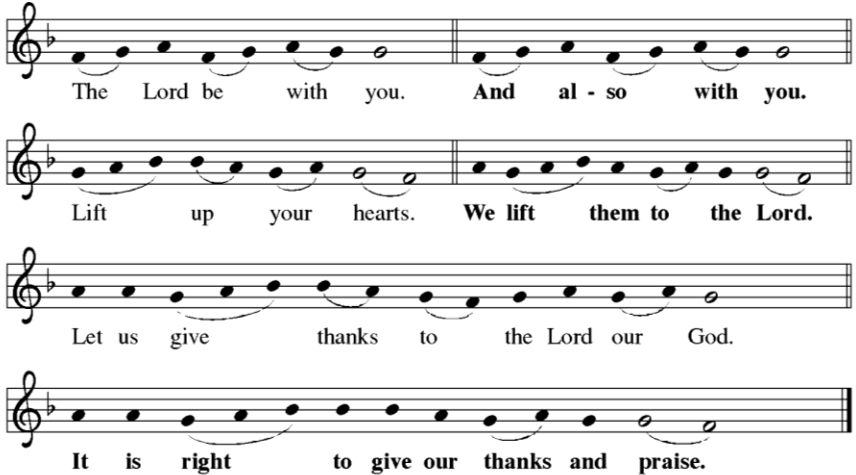
"Christ has Arisen, Alleluia" st. 1

Red Book #364

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

GREAT THANKSGIVING



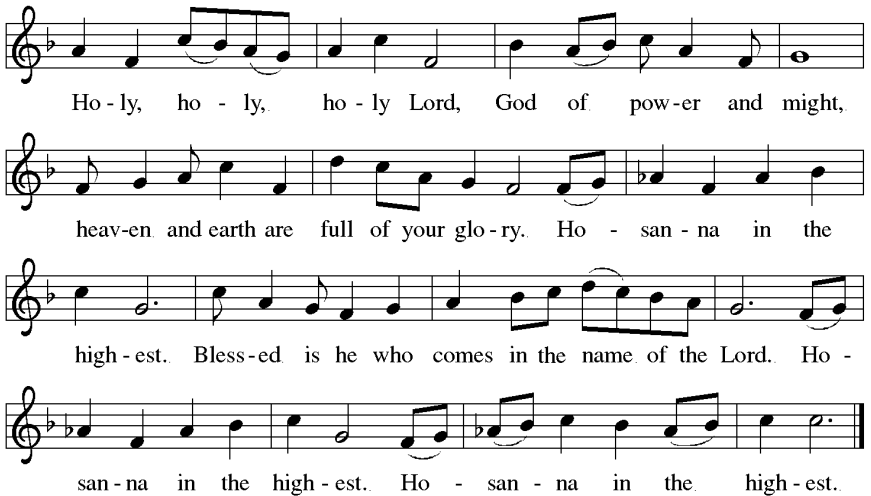
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory....*(The presiding minister continues giving thanks)*....

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....

The prayers conclude:

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

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

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, invites you to share in this banquet of forgiveness and new life. Come to his table!

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.

The congregation may sit.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT. *shared at the communion rail*
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

“Be Not Afraid”

Red Book #388

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Christ lag in Todesbanden”

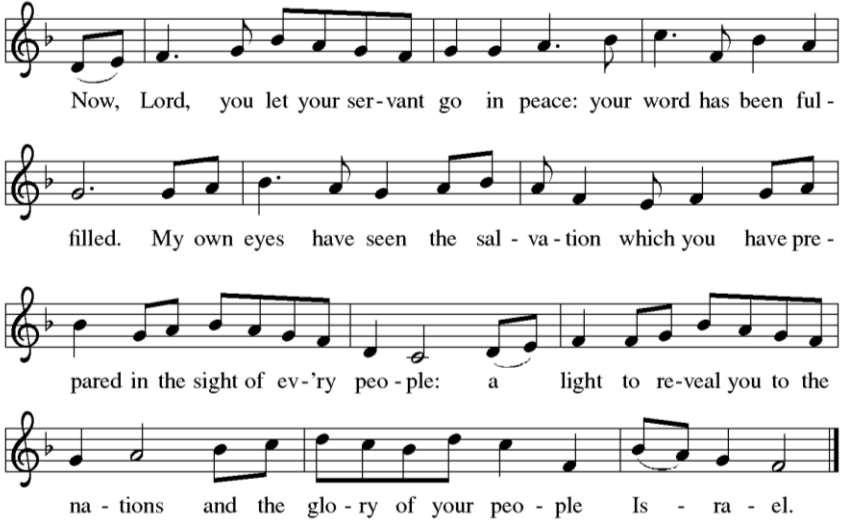
- Samuel Scheidt

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*

THE SENDING

RITE OF GODSPEED AND FAREWELL FOR A SABBATICAL

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"In Thee Is Gladness

Red Book #867

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news of the risen Christ!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Tocatta in C"

- Johann Pachelbel

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Susan Farrell	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Farrell,
in memory of Gretchen.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/17	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 4/19	8:00 AM	Community Health Clinic Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 4/20	10:30 AM	Bible Study Activity & Lunch (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 4/21		<i>Pastor Mike's First Day in the Office</i>
Sat., 4/22	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/23	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sabbatical Lunch and Presentation Series begins May 7th: "Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" (Eph 4:3): Mission of the Church in the 21st Century with Rev. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig - Radical change hits congregations, and Christians across the world are in conflict over what to do. In this talk, Gil will summarize challenges we currently face but also clarify responses that Lutherans can make based on our theological

commitments. In an anxious and polarized time, our mission is “unity of the spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3), because the gospel proclaims salvation by grace through faith. More details on lunch to follow. Lunch and presentation were made possible by the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Save the Date! First Aid / CPR Training will take place the evening of May 16th. Class time will be two hours. An online portion of the training must be completed at your own pace prior to class time. Typically, the online portion requires about two hours’ time to complete. The cost is \$60 and the training is certified for two years by the Red Cross. Contact Caitlyn or Bill Vilcheck to sign up and Bill for details.

On Thursday, the Women’s Bible Study Group will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall for an activity and lunch. See Signe Mitchell for details.

Volunteers are needed to bake cakes for Community Dinner! If you’d like to help, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall. Please see Tracy Gullickson, MaryAnn Swanson, or Jan Nieto if you have any questions.

Butler Meals on Wheels will host a Fundraiser Dinner on Tuesday, April 18th from 4-7 p.m. at St. Peter’s Anglican Church. The cost is \$12 and includes penne pasta, meatballs, bread, drinks & dessert.

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

Lucas; Jonathan Peterson; Robin McVay; Maread Magee; Alysia Shaffer; Donny Bayless; Rose Cooper; Sue Lehw; Beth Weber; family 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

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Receiving God's promise through baptism

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

1 Peter 1:17-23

Born anew through the living word of God

Luke 24:13-35

Eating with the risen Christ

Pastor Michael Robinson

Pr. Mike will be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays, beginning on Friday, April 21st. He can be reached by email at prmikerobinson@aol.com.

For emergencies, he can be reached by phone:

(724) 444-6314 (home)

(412) 260-4407 (cell)

**Please direct all other congregational concerns to
Council President, Mollie Hibbs.**

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