

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Christians, to the Paschal Victim” - Charles Callahan
“The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe” - Waldemar Ahlen
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” - Alex Wyton

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

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

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

Red Book #377

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. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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, 36-41

Today’s reading is the conclusion of Peter’s sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his

preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19 *read responsively*

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,**

is the death of your servants.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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 Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group

astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Day of Arising"

Red Book #374

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

Gathered with All the People of God, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's Creation as we walk in the light of the Risen Christ.

A brief silence.

We pray for those who are on the path of healing, especially those we name before you. That you would give them patience and comfort in their suffering and bring their bodies to wholeness. Lord, in Your Mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

For those who seek direction in their lives. That you would guide them through the power of your Holy Spirit to guide them along life's way. May they experience the presence of your Son Jesus Christ in their lives. Lord, in Your Mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

For those who walk in the darkness of loneliness, depression, and addiction. Let the light of the resurrection and the promise of new life shine through their lives and give them hope. Lord, in Your Mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

For the companionship of all who believe in you and give us companionship and support on this journey of faith. Especially we give you thanks for the members of our family, our neighbors, this congregation, our synod, and the whole Body of Christ. Lord, in Your Mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

(Other intercessions may be offered here)

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through trials unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our 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 may sit.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come Share with Me the Bread”

- Craig Cassils

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

Red Book #364

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

GREAT THANKSGIVING



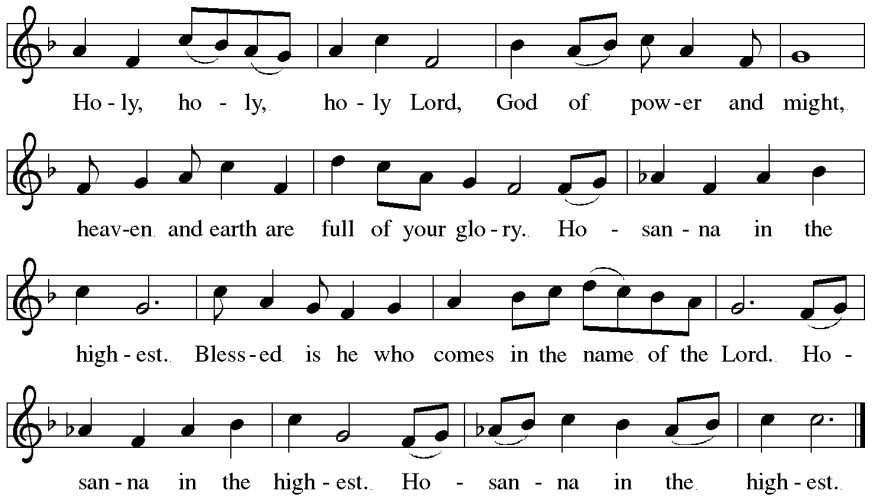
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.**

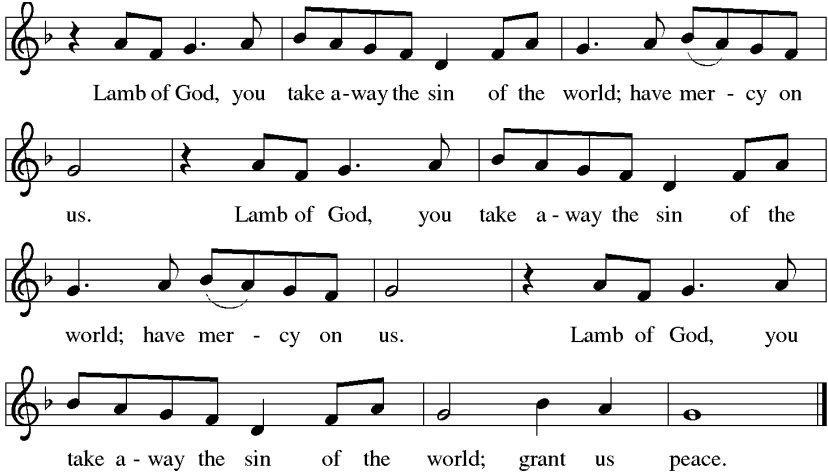
**Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;**

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 center aisle*

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

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

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

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Red Book #674

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Christ lag in Todesbanden”

- F.W. Zachau

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Mike Robinson	Presiding Minister
Lois Trimbur	Assisting Minister
Larry Hamil	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Reese Sequite	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow, Adrew O'Rourke	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Sue and Jack Lehew, in loving memory of Tamm.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/24	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 4/27	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/29	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/30	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. Lunch and presentation were made possible by the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Endowment. Please stay for lunch even if you did not sign-up!

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.

Thank you so much to all who donated desserts for Community Dinner! Our freezers are full, so we are unable to accept any additional donations for now.

St. Faustina Parish will host an Italian Dinner on Saturday, April 29th from 3-7 p.m. at St. Christopher at the Lake Church in Prospect. The cost is \$13 and includes your choice of entrée plus antipasto salad, wedding soup, drink & 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; 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 2:42-47

The believers' common life

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

1 Peter 2:19-25

Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10

Christ the shepherd

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

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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