

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Prelude et Fugue"

- Georg Boehm

"Come, Oh, Come, O Quickening Spirit"

- G. Winston Cassler

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

“O Christ, Our Hope”

Red Book #604

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 ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who

will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

read responsively

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;**

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited

patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 14:15-21

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you

another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Loving Spirit"

Red Book #397

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

Walking in the light of the risen Christ, let us pray for those in need, our
community, the Church, and all the world.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your unchanging love for us in a
world that is in a constant state of flux. Help us to build on the solid
foundation of your grace so that we may experience the peace that only
you can give. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the gift of mothers, grandmothers, aunt, sisters,
and all women who have given their love and wisdom to us. May we be
quick to show our appreciation for all that they have done. Lord in your
mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for expectant mothers, those in the adoption process, that you
would bring and their children safely to a new beginning. Lord in your
mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all families throughout the world. Help them to be places where love can flourish and people can grow in support and understanding of one another. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we may never grow weary of praying and working for peace and healing in this broken world. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, the lonely, the broken hearted, and those caught in behaviors that are destructive. Restore them to the abundant life that we find in Your Son Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“If You Love Me” - Philip Wilby
(John 14:15-18)
Chuck McMichael, *narrator*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

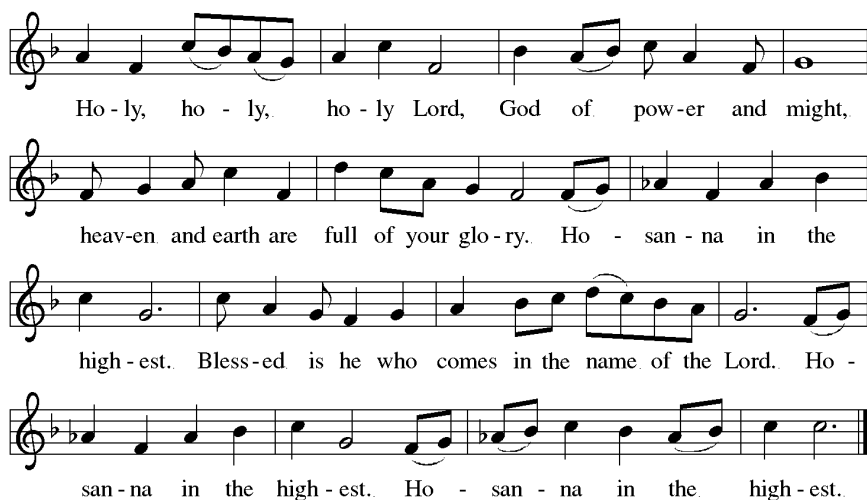
“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” sts. 1, 3, 5 Red Book #364

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:



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 *(next page)*

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore, Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night, In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here, Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



Refrain
 By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier"

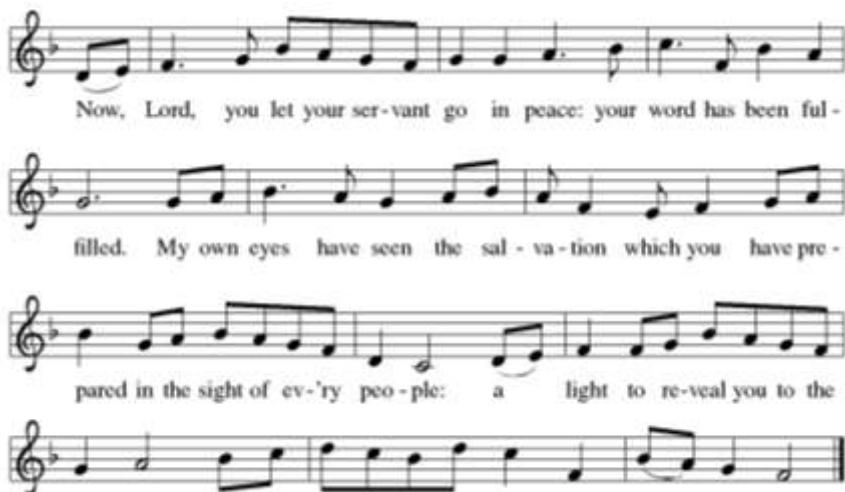
- Richard I. Purvis

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

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Red Book #391

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

- Paul Manz

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Mike Robinson	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Lois Trimbur	Communion Assistant
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Lois Trimbur	Crucifer
Reese Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Chuck McMichael	Narrator
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Karen and Bob Domanski; Brenden Stevens	Ushers
Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Karen and Bob Domanski in memory and in honor of all First English Lutheran Church mothers.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 5/15	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 5/16	<i>Election Day</i>	<i>Church Office Operating Remotely</i>
		CPR / First Aid Training
Wed., 5/18	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Schedule Change)
Thurs., 5/18	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/20	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/21	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the date for the second Sabbatical Lunch and Presentation on June 4th: “Praying the Scriptures: Lessons from a Biblical Storyteller” with Pastor Jim Kulma, MDiv. - There are many ways to pray and meditate. Jim will present the practices and skills that storytellers use to

learn and tell biblical stories from memory. Tapping into these practices will help to develop a “learned by heart” relationship with your favorite and most meaningful passages from the Scriptures. This internalization is a time-honored practice for persons seeking a deep prayer life and can be a resource for worship, Bible study, and caring ministries. Lunch and presentation were made possible by the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Endowment.

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.

A Summer Music Schedule is posted in the Social Hall. Please consider signing your name on the schedule for one of the Sundays in **June, July, or August**. We look forward to hearing your voice, your instrument, and musical talent as an important part of our worship! Kevin Mathias and Signe Mitchell are available if you have any questions.

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

Gus Keiser; Renee; Liam Cirillo; Lucas; Jonathan Peterson; Robin McVay; Maread Magee; Alysia Shaffer; Donny Bayless; 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; 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; 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; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 1:6-14

Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

God will sustain and restore those who suffer

John 17:1-11

Christ's prayer for his disciples

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 pmikerobinson@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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WELCOMING. HOSPITABLE. SAFE.

Whether "rustic" or "modern", Lutherlyn aims to be welcoming and hospitable to all who come for summer camp or retreats. Over the years, the well-used Shaulis cabins have deteriorated beyond repair. Each summer, they require excessive maintenance and upkeep to use "the best" 5 for campers and staff. The "worst" 5 are not usable. As camp has grown and activities have expanded, attendees tell us they prefer to stay closer to main campus rather than be so far from the dining hall and other main buildings and activity areas.

The amphitheater, a sacred and beloved space for many – especially our summer campers, too, is deteriorating. After 40 years, benches are sinking into the soil and the steps and walkways have shifted due to decades of erosion making the terrain less safe for guests. Securing the structural integrity of this space is critical to provide a welcoming and hospitable environment for worship.

Gifts to the **Building for the Future Campaign** will build faith through Lutherlyn's outdoor ministries for generations to come.

"I think the faith that is taught here at Lutherlyn is not substantively different from the faith that's taught in our Sunday school classes, or in our homes, or from our pulpits. But the context is so different that it can be heard in a different way."

-BISHOP KURT F. KUSSEROW, SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

"Lutherlyn is formative. Coming to this place will mark an individual. It will become a special place in people's hearts. At Lutherlyn, people come from all walks of life and experience a depth of God that they may not experience elsewhere."

-BISHOP MICHAEL LOZANO, NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

PROJECTED COSTS

5 Winterized Cabins	\$1,000,000
Amphitheater	\$500,000
Remove Shaulis Cabins, Road & Site Improvements	\$500,000
Campaign Goal	\$2,000,000
5 Additional Seasonal Cabins	\$500,000
Added Campaign Challenge	\$500,000
Total	\$2,500,000

GIFTS OVER TIME

Amount per week	Amount per month	Amount per year	3-year amount
\$481	\$2,084	\$25,000	\$75,000
\$415	\$1,800	\$21,600	\$64,800
\$370	\$1,600	\$19,200	\$57,600
\$277	\$1,200	\$14,400	\$43,200
\$256	\$1,109	\$13,332	\$40,000
\$192	\$832	\$10,000	\$30,000
\$160	\$693	\$8,333	\$25,000
\$128	\$555	\$6,666	\$20,000
\$96	\$416	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$64	\$277	\$3,333	\$10,000
\$32	\$139	\$1,667	\$5,000
\$23	\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$12	\$52	\$600	\$1,800
\$6.50	\$28	\$336	\$1,000
\$3.85	\$17	\$200	\$600

\$1 per day for three years is a gift of \$1,095