

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesus meine Zuversicht” - J.G. Walther and Roger T. Petrich
“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” - Kevin Hildebrand

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

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”

Red Book #380

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 God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than

distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 *read responsively*

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and
my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in

the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"

Red Book #816

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 presence 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.

Guiding Shepherd, in this age of uncertainty, give us strength to trust in
your unchanging love and confidence in your goodness and power. Lord
in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us a vision of your future and guide our lives so that we may
proclaim your love in ways that are meaningful. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We lift up to you those in our community who are forgotten or ignored:
the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and those who lack security. Lord in
your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give peace and comfort to the ill. Place your hand of healing upon them. Especially, we lift up those we name before you in our hearts.

(brief silence)

Strengthen the faith of all who suffer and renew their bodies spirits. Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Grant to this community a spirit of patience and openness so that we might engage one another in true dialog and foster greater understanding of each other. 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 our Lord.
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

"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" - Gordon Young
(John 14:5,6)

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" sts. 1 & 5 Red Book #364

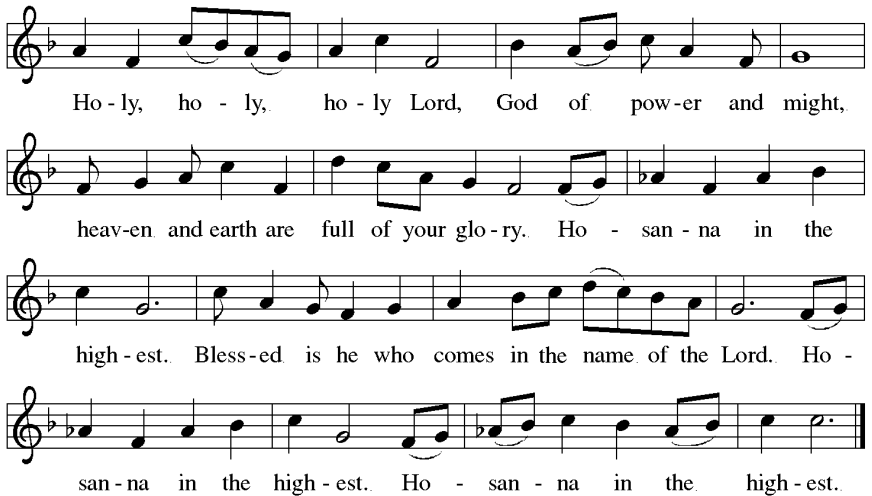
OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

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 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 *(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.



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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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 fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Red Book #654

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Christ Is Arisen”

- Samuel Scheidt

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Mike Robinson	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Shane Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Carl Devore, Susan Farrell, and Jan Nieto	Ushers
Jack and Amy Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 5/8	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 5/9	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Thurs., 5/11	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/13	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/14	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us after worship today for the first Sabbatical Lunch and Presentation: "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!

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. Sign up in the Social Hall

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; 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; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

Paul's message to the Athenians

Psalms 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (*Ps. 66:8*)

1 Peter 3:13-22

The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

John 14:15-21

Christ our advocate

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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Dear Friend,

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries are vital for passing on faith and developing leaders for our church. It is of utmost importance for our church to ensure that our camps continue to provide exceptional facilities and remain accessible to all who desire to be part of programs where the Gospel is lived in Intentional Christian Community.

As I hear the faith stories of our pastors, seminarians, and lay leaders across our synods, I am in awe of the ways in which God uses Outdoor Ministries to form people and develop faith. We share a desire that God's love is known across the region and across the world. Through the ministry of Lutherlyn, we are impacting the lives of thousands of youth, families, and adults as they develop their faith and grow as Christian leaders.

Together we can grow this ministry and reach more people. Our number one priority is to build on the solid foundation that has been established over the decades at Lutherlyn and position it for even more ministry in the future. As children grow in faith, leaders are developed. At camp, kids experience the love of God, families develop relationships and serve together, and adults deepen relationships and discover their God-given leadership skills. Because of experiences at camp, the church becomes more prepared to fulfill our mission of making disciples. Ministries like Lutherlyn transform the world.

The "Building for the Future" campaign will invest in the facilities and infrastructure of Lutherlyn. To achieve this, we need your help. We need your prayers, your volunteer time, and your financial support to make this campaign a reality. This brochure shares the story of what we are trying to accomplish. Please join me in supporting this critical ministry.

In Christ,

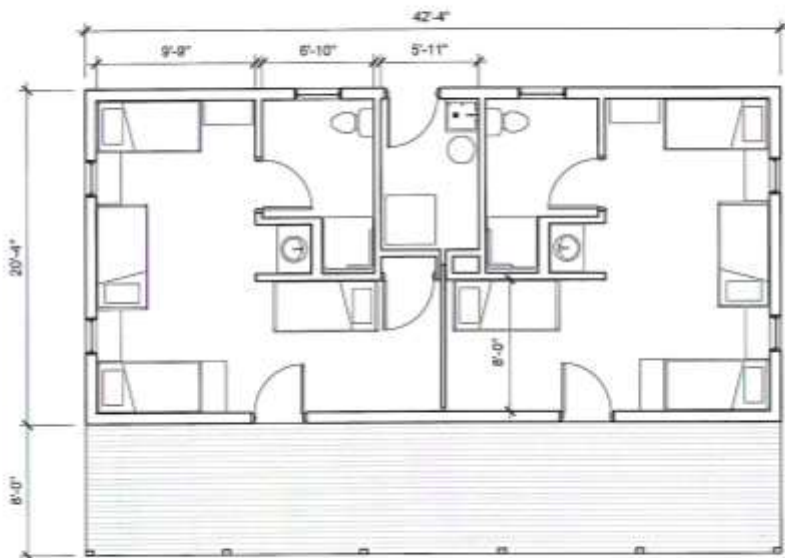
The Rev. Bishop Donald McCoid
Honorary Campaign Chair

5 NEW CABINS

Lodging is a first impression of Lutherlyn's hospitality. The Shaulis cabins, built in 1958, have served this ministry well, housing thousands of campers over those years. Unfortunately, weather and wear have exhausted these buildings.

To replace these accommodations, a new 5-cabin village will be built on main camp between the pool and the A-frame cabins. This winterized village, complete with upgraded utilities and an access road, will be professionally constructed to meet current building codes. The single village will accommodate Lutherlyn's pre-pandemic summer camp enrollment while also allowing for an increased number of guests during the retreat season.

A second 5-cabin village to accommodate seasonal staff and volunteers is planned as funding becomes available. This second village is part of the *Building for the Future* challenge goal.



PROPOSED CABIN PLAN