

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Pentecost**

**June 25, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

- Michael Wise

“Choral”

- César Franck

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

- Setting/ Anne K. Organ

“Valet will ich dir geben”

- Georg F. Kaufmann

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, † one  
God,

full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s promise of forgiveness,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*The congregation may kneel as desired.*

Eternal God our creator,

**in you we live and move and have our being.**

**Look upon us, your children,  
the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,  
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you,  
our refuge and our strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we were still sinners;  
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

“Beautiful Savior”

Red Book #838

## **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.**

## **GLORIA**

*page 121 in the front of the red book*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **THE WORD**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **FIRST READING      Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God’s hands.*

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup>**I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup>**Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.

## SECOND READING Romans 6:1b-11

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

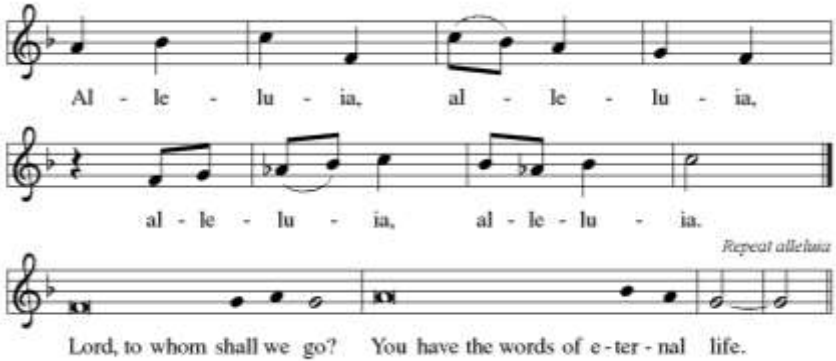
<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body

in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“How Firm a Foundation”

Red Book #796

## **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**

Called into discipleship and growth by our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for those in need, our community, the Church, and the World.

Heavenly Father whose eye is on the sparrow, all life is dear to you for you created all things out of your goodness and love. Help us to be good stewards of the World you have made so that all may benefit from your creation. Lord, in Your Mercy,

**Hear Our Prayer.**

Inspire us by your generosity. Help us to give sacrificially acknowledging that all things that we have come from you. Lord, in Your Mercy,

**Hear Our Prayer.**

Embolden your people so that we may proclaim the coming of your kingdom in our words and in our actions. By the power of your Holy Spirit open the hearts of all people to the message of forgiveness and new life. Lord, in Your Mercy,

**Hear Our Prayer.**

In Baptism we have died with Your Son. Help us to share in the new life that you have given us. Continue to transform us by your grace so that our lives reflect more closely your image. Lord, in Your Mercy,

**Hear Our Prayer.**

Dear Lord, You have given us joy in this Holy Meal. Help us to understand the significance of the death of Your Son and the victory over death he has won. Lord, in Your Mercy,  
**Hear Our Prayer.**

Assist we pray, all those who are sick, lonely, and struggling with issues that only known to them. Especially those we name in our hearts at this time. Lord, in Your Mercy.  
**Hear Our Prayer.**

Into Your Heart, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy though our Lord 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.*

#### **ORGAN OFFERTORY**

“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You” - Barbara Boertje

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” Red Book #691

**OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

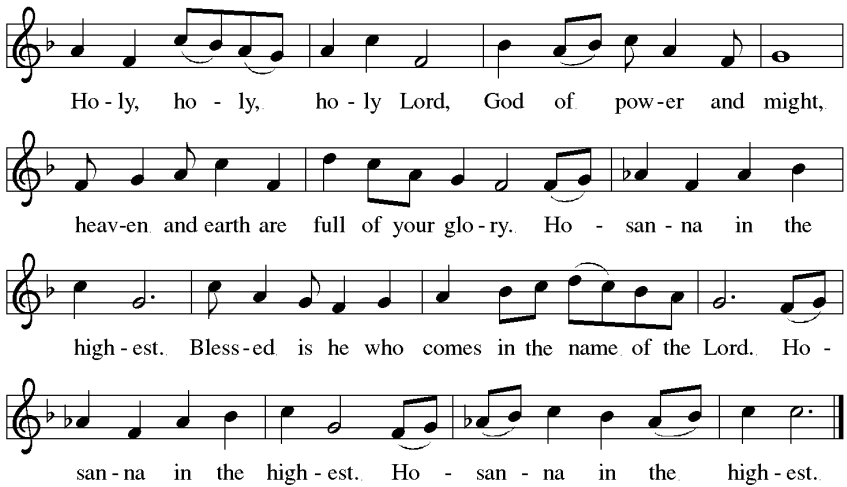


## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.*

## 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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Red Book #810

#### DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

- Laura Wasson

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Mike Robinson	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Amy Beiler	<b>Reader</b>
Amelia O'Rourke	<b>Crucifer</b>
Reese Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Pianist</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Karen Boltz	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

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

*All are welcome to join us for social hour following the worship service.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 6/26	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 6/29	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 7/1	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 7/2		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save the Date for the third Sabbatical Lunch and Presentation on July 9<sup>th</sup> with Jessica Burr, Clinical Director of the Butler County YMCA's Reach & Rise Program.** Lunch and presentation were made possible by the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Endowment.

**Save the Date for VBS** at Lutherlyn on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. More details to come!

**A Summer Music Schedule is posted in the Social Hall.** Please consider

signing your name on the schedule for one of the Sundays in **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](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org/giving).

### **PRAYERS**

Linda and Joe Randig; James Carlantonio; Carl Devore; family of Jamie McPoyle; Marc Fogel; Jeff Acord; Lida Mason; Rob Mertha; Gregory Reeder; Kirsten Schaney; Gus Keiser; Renee; Liam Cirillo; Lucas; Jonathan Peterson; 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; 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**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*The test of a true prophet*

**Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18**

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

**Romans 6:12-23**

*No longer under law but under grace*

**Matthew 10:40-42**

*Welcome Christ in those he sends*

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**Pastor Michael Robinson**

Pr. Mike will be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays, beginning on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. He can be reached by email at [prmikerobinson@aol.com](mailto: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.**