

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Sixth Sunday of Pentecost  
July 9, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Voluntary in G Major”

- John Stanley

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

- F. W. Marpurg / Laura E. Wasson

**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**

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”

Red Book #863

### **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. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

### **THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FIRST READING      Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 145: 8-14**      *read responsively*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures  
throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your  
works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING    Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it  
and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free  
from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”

sts. 1-4

Red Book #777

## 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

Gathered together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's World.

We ask that you would prosper the work of those who work with youth.  
May their efforts bring a safe place for young people to grow and thrive.  
Hear Us O God,  
**Your Mercy is Great.**

We pray for peace among the nations. We pray for peace in our communities as well. Calm the fear and hatred of those who are tempted to turn to violence so that all may live in safety. Hear Us O God,  
**Your Mercy is Great.**

Give rest to the weary, especially those who are in danger of losing hope and giving in life. Strengthen their hope in you and remind them of your constant love. Hear Us O God,  
**Your Mercy is Great.**

Be with those who face illness and bring about healing in their lives.  
Give them a spirit of peace in their suffering. Especially we pray for  
those we name before in your hearts at this time. (*pause*)

Hear Us O God,

**Your Mercy is Great.**

We lift up our city of Butler and pray that we would continue to strive  
for a city which would prosper in community spirit where all citizens  
would work for the common good. Hear Us O God,

**Your Mercy is Great.**

All of these things, along with whatever else we need, we ask in the  
name of Your Beloved 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.*

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“In Times Like These”

- Ruth C. Jones

*Vocal Duet – Sue Morrow and Larry Hamil*

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

Red Book #691

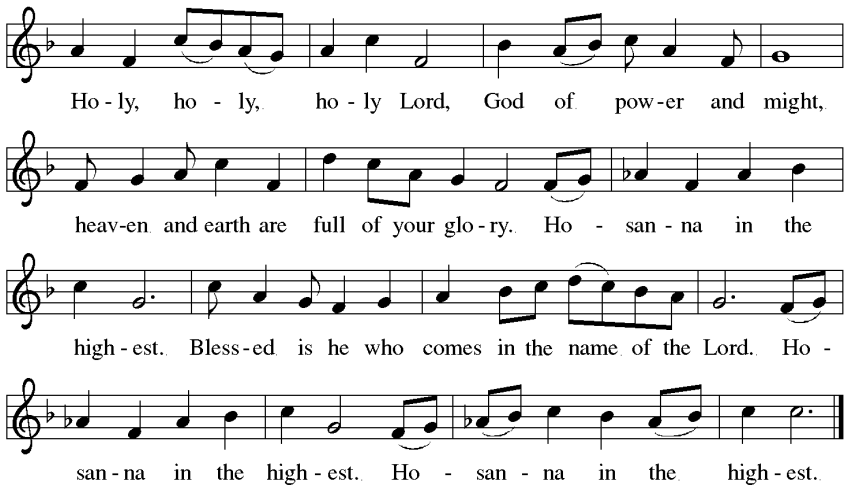
**OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

## 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.**

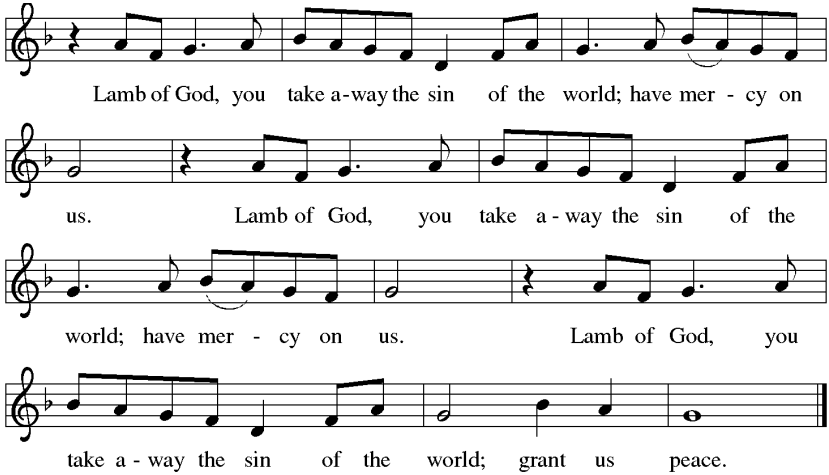
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
    **and forgive us our trespasses,**  
    **as we forgive those**  
    **who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
    **but deliver us from evil.**

**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.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Lord, Your Hands Have Formed This World” - Mark Sedio, *arr.*

## 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 God of Every Nation”

Red Book #713

### DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- Setting / John Carter

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Mike Robinson	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Mollie Hibbs	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Shane Kamerer	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Pianist</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Judy and Bill Vilcheck	<b>Ushers</b>
Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Marlin and Karen Boltz,  
in gratitude for 47 years of marriage.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 7/10	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 7/11	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Thurs., 7/13	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 7/15	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 7/16	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We mourn with the family of Carl Devore** who died in resurrection hope on July 2, 2023. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

**Join us after worship today for the third Sabbatical Lunch and Presentation 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. Please stay for lunch even if you did not sign up!

**The St. Faustina Parish Festival** will be held on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at St.

Christopher Church in Prospect. For more information, there is a poster on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.

**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**

The family of Carl Devore; Marj Rogner; Lindsey Shuster; Bill Brown; Linda and Joe Randig; James Carlantonio; 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**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

*The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose*

**Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13**

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

**Romans 8:1-11**

*Live according to the Spirit*

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*The parable of the sower and the seed*

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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 [pmikerobinson@aol.com](mailto: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.**