

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  
October 1, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“My Lord, What a Morning” - C. Callahan, *arr.*  
“Lord, Remember Your Mercies” – Psalm 25 - Improvisation  
“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” - J. S. Bach

**WELCOME**

*The congregation may stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.**

**Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GATHERING HYMN

“At the Name of Jesus”

Red Book #416

## 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 195 in the front of the red book*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## THE WORD

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**FIRST READING**      **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have

committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 25: 1-9** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day  
long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

## SECOND READING    **Philippians 2:1-13**

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

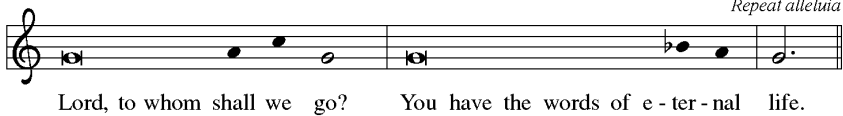
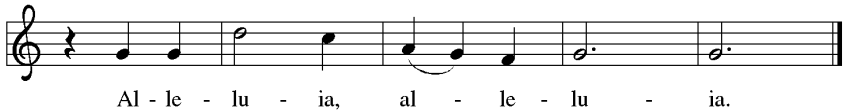
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL      Matthew 21:23-32

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and

said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

*The congregation may sit.*

**SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me**  
*O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:  
 es en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:  
 light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
 Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
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## 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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority, especially for Joseph our president, Josh our governor, and Bob our mayor. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way (*especially*). Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

### **THE MEAL**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

"Now the Silence"

Red Book #460

**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, 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.

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying, your mercy endures forever. (*The presiding minister continues giving thanks*)....  
With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....**

*The prayers conclude:*

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

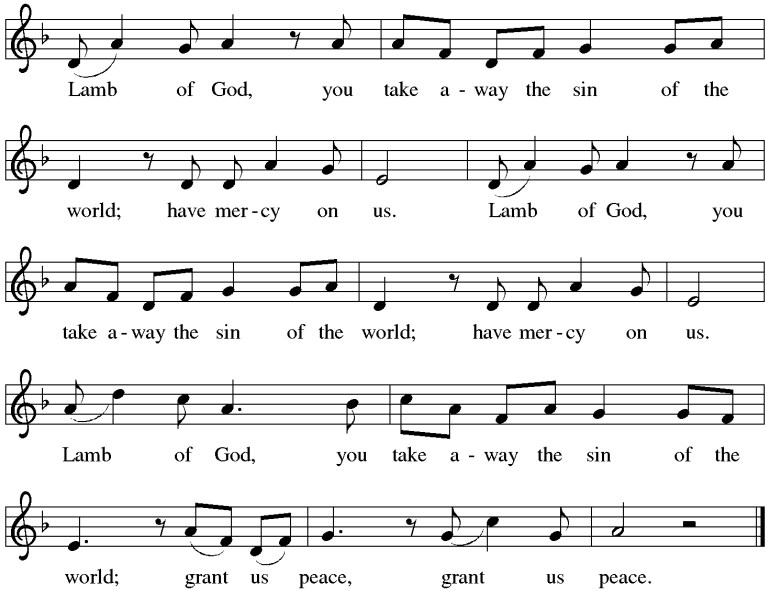
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## 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, grant us peace.

*The congregation may sit.*

## SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

*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

*The congregation may stand.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *led by the assisting minister*

## THE SENDING

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

Red Book #538

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Movement 1 from Concerto #1

- J. S. Bach

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Mollie Hibbs	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Melody Kameron	<b>Reader</b>
Amelia O'Rourke	<b>Crucifer</b>
Alex Kameron	<b>Acolyte</b>
Karen Krenitsky	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Josh Kameron	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Karen and Bob Domanski; Brenden Stevens	<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 Roxanne Glagola in memory of loved ones and her dad, Gary Cooper's birthday.*

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 10/2	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 10/5	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 10/7	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 10/8	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We mourn with the family of Tony Sequite** who died in resurrection hope on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

**This Sunday, we continue learning (or re-learning) setting 9.** This setting can be found in the front of the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, on pages. 193-202. Today, we will learn the Lamb of God. As the following weeks unfold, we will learn new parts of the service.

**Reminder: Attention students grades 8-12 and family members!** All youth of this age group are eligible to attend the ELCA's 2024 Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Curious about how you can take advantage of this life-impacting opportunity? An informational pizza lunch will take place **TODAY**, Sunday, October 1 at 12:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. Hope to see you there!

**Butler Meals on Wheels** is hosting a dine-in or take-out fundraiser dinner on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church. The Italian dinner is \$12 and will be catered by The Monroe.

**Following worship on October 22<sup>nd</sup>,** members of church council will be hosting a focus group for families with older children to discuss First English's Christian education and faith formation program.

**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 Tony Sequite; Mackenzie Perkins; Mairead Magee; Linda Mathias; Gus Keiser; Zema Schaney; Cory; Will; Carol Chamberlain; Carol Johnson; Mason Martin; family of Janet Warner; Eileen Herbeck; family of Linda Hibbeler; Marj Rogner; Thelma Hassler; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Aryl Bashline; Holly Schubert; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The song of the vineyard*

#### **Psalm 80:7-15**

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

#### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*

#### **Matthew 21:33-46**

*The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

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JOIN FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
AND EMILY BRITTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR

# *Socktober 2023*

THIS OCTOBER, LET'S HELP OUR COMMUNITY AGAIN BY  
COLLECTING NEW SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, AND GLOVES  
FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

KIDS' SIZES SMALL-XXL OR 4-16  
(GREATEST NEEDS ARE UNDERWEAR IN SMALLER SIZES  
AND SOCKS IN LARGER SIZES)



Join us during social hour  
following the 10 a.m. worship  
service on Sunday, October 15th  
for our second Intergenerational  
Faith Formation Event -

## **A PUMPKIN PARTY**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

Yes, *intergenerational* means all ages!

Please sign up in the social hall.

First English Lutheran Church  
241 North Main St. Butler, PA



**FUNDRAISER**  
TO STRENGTHEN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
MALAGASY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**OCTOBER 15**  
**4:00 PM**

**Taste of Madagascar**  
**"Growing Together"**

Zion Lutheran Church  
557 Perry Hwy, Harmony, PA 16037

 [SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MADAGASCAR](http://SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MADAGASCAR)

**\$30 ADULTS (18+)**  
**\$15 YOUTH (11-17)**  
**\$0 KIDS (-10)**  
LIMITED SEATING

**Saturday, October 15 at 4 PM**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**557 Perry Highway Harmony, PA, 16037**

Come learn more about the Lutheran church in Madagascar and our relationship with the Malagasy Synod, as well as life in this amazing country. The dinner will consist of authentic foods prepared by a native from Madagascar. Items from Madagascar will be on display to view and handle, shared by those who have had the opportunity to visit Madagascar. If you would like to register, please speak to Pr. Kimberly.