

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
20th Sunday of Pentecost
October 15, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Praeludium”

- K. Roeder

“In the Very Midst of Life”

- Helmut Walcha

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

- Ulrich Hildebrand

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 Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Red Book #362

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. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING **Isaiah 25:1-9**

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save
us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *read responsively*

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

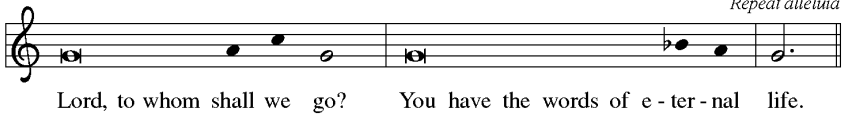
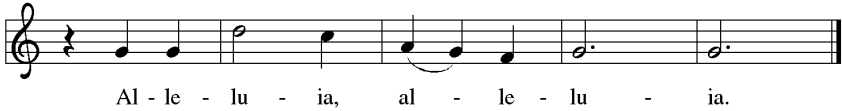
⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was

speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind his hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Eat the Bread of Teaching"

Red Book #518

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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for . . .*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy (*especially Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church*), that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

"Go Not Far from Me, O God"

- Zingarelli

The congregation may stand.

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.

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

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Red Book #632

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Lord, We Praise You"

- Kevin Hildebrand

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Sue Morrow	Communion Assistant
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Reese Sequite	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Minister
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow, Andrew O'Rourke	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters

Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild
-----------------	--------------------

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., 10/16	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 10/17	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 10/18	9:30 AM	Worship Committee Meeting
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs., 10/19	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 10/21	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 10/22	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor’s Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)
	11:30 AM	Confirmation
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We mourn with the family of Zema Schaney, who died in resurrection hope on October 11. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Join us during social hour following worship today for our 2nd Fall Faith Formation Intergenerational Event – *A Pumpkin Party* (Matthew 5:13-16).

Community Dinner is requesting donations of cookies and bars. Please bring them to the church on Sunday or Monday morning. Thank you!

Reminder: To be included in the November newsletter, announcements must be sent to Caitlyn by Friday, October 20th.



Support our Confirmation Students! Our confirmation classes this year are gathering for lunch in addition to instruction. We are looking for donations to help us keep our youth fed physically with mac-n-cheese, a salad bar, and a dessert while they are fed spiritually with God's word! Our next meeting is Oct. 22. A sign-up sheet can be found on the social hall bulletin board. We need lunch to feed 10 (8 youth and 2 adults). Questions? Speak to Pr. Kimberly or Sue Morrow.

Reminder to families of youth who want to attend the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans on July 16-20, please email your commitment to Pr. Kimberly directly no later than Oct. 21. For more information about the Gathering, please visit www.elca.church/gathering.

Following worship on October 22, 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.

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

Retreat for Community Dinner Volunteers will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at 9:30 a.m. concluding with lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Woodland Lodge, Camp Lutherlyn, 500 Lutherlyn Ln, Prospect PA. It's been a season of change and challenge at community dinner with rising need in our community.

Those who serve others also need time to be fed, to reflect on our ministry, and to build relationships with one another. Join us for a time of good food and thoughtful conversation outside of the weekly pressure of Monday. Anyone who volunteers with community dinner—in any capacity—is welcome!

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

The family of Zema Schaney; Frank Miller; family of Tony Sequite; Mackenzie Perkins; Mairead Magee; Linda Mathias; Gus Keiser; 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 45:1-7

An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica

Matthew 22:15-22

A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God

Liturgical portions of today's service are reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028762.



JOIN FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND EMILY BRITAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR

Sock-tober 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