

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
21st Sunday of Pentecost
October 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“O Lord, We Praise Thee”

-Heinrich Scheidemann

“Fuguettes”

- Jean Langlais

Chorale Prelude on “Dundee”

- Hubert Parry

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

“O God, My Faithful God”

Red Book #806

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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING **Isaiah 45:1-7**

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel’s exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-13 *read responsively*

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,**

for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and

true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose

title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Red Book #841

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.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. We pray especially for Joe our president and for the work of diplomacy in Israel and Palestine, that lives may be saved. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice and peace, we cry out to you for an end to senseless violence and killing. Hear our lament for the terror unleashed in the land called holy, for the daily suffering of Israelis and Palestinians. God, we pray, act in ways that we cannot now imagine to bring healing and protection. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. Help us regard money and possessions as signs of your love and help us use them faithfully. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. 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

"Do This and Remember"

- Brad Nix

(Matthew 26: 17-29)

Harry Cunningham, *pianist*

The congregation may stand.

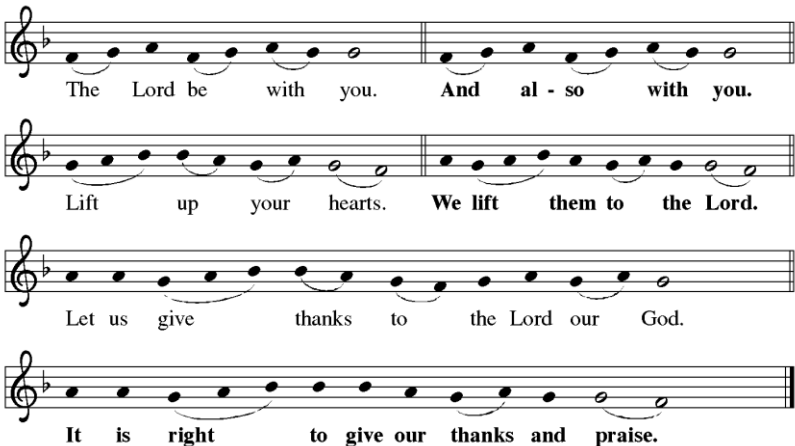
OFFERTORY HYMN

"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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Ricercare on St. Anne”

- Charles Callahan

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

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Red Book #623

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fredericktown”

- John Ferguson

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Communion Assistant
Marlin Boltz	Reader
Amelia O’Rourke	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director

Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell, Jan Nieto, and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry Hamil
in loving memory of Randy Gullickson.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 10/23	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 10/26	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 10/27	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	3:00 PM	Purvis Memorial (Social Hall)
Sun., 10/29	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship - Confirmation Sunday
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday, the day on which we honor the reality that the church must always be reformed to live out the love of Christ. This year's celebration includes two of our youth, Evan Stein and Christiaan van Driel, making affirmation of baptism. There will be a cake reception to follow. Everyone is invited to wear red – the color of the day – to celebrate.

FELC's Socktober effort (please see the announcement on the following page) has received generous gifts of mittens and gloves. However, we are in special need of children's underwear and socks! Alternatively, you may donate money (please mark your envelope) so that we can purchase needed items. Thank you!

The confirmation class will meet downstairs in the catechism room for class following today's worship service.

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

Following worship today, members of church council will be hosting a focus group for families with older (confirmation age) children to discuss First English's Christian education and faith formation program. This meeting will take place in Pr. Kimberly's office.



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

Lois Trimbur; Carol Cunningham; 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

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Holiness revealed in acts of justice

Psalm 1

Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (Ps. 1:2)

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The apostle's tender care for the Thessalonians

Matthew 22:34-46

Two great commandments: love for God and neighbor

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