

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

- “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” - Balthasar Resinarius
and Jan Bender
- “Tantum Ergo” - Spanish plainsong,
Jack C. Good, *arr.*
- “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” - William P. Rowlands

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

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Red Book #645

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.

KYRIE

page 193 in the front of the red book

GLORIA

page 195 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be

like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 *read responsively*

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

¹⁰**Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

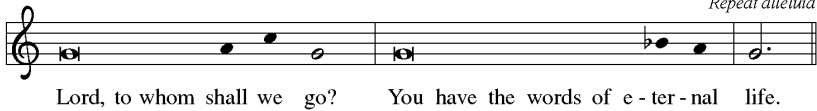
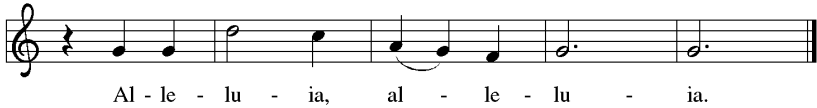
²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 8:31-36

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Listen, God Is Calling”

Red Book #513

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Rite of Confirmation)

page 234 in the front of the red book

HYMN

“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”

sts. 1 and 4

Red Book #448

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.

We pray, gracious God, that you would help your people to continue in your word and never to regard faith as a dry and boring thing. By your Spirit, awaken us, make us open to change and reform. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that you would make war to cease in all the world, and especially in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon and in places where the suffering of the people does not make our daily news. Break cycles of violence and shatter the hatred that pierces human hearts. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this country. Out of political disarray, raise up leaders with humility, wisdom, and commitment to the common good. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who do not know that you are gracious, for those who doubt your goodness, and for those do not know anything about you. Help us in our daily lives be signs of your love to others. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are most on our minds at this hour....Bring healing, justice, health, and protection to them. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the learning ministries of this congregation: for all who are involved in Bible study, confirmation class, intergenerational events, or

retreats, that by dwelling in your word we may truly be your disciples. Give Evan and Christiaan and all who are confirmed the will to continue learning. God, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Keep us, O God, with all of those who have who are now at rest until that day we stand together before you with transformed hearts. God, in your mercy: **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

“Redeemer, Rock, and Refuge”

- Joseph M. Martin

Jim Cunningham, *trumpeter*

(based on *Psalm 62*)

The congregation may stand.

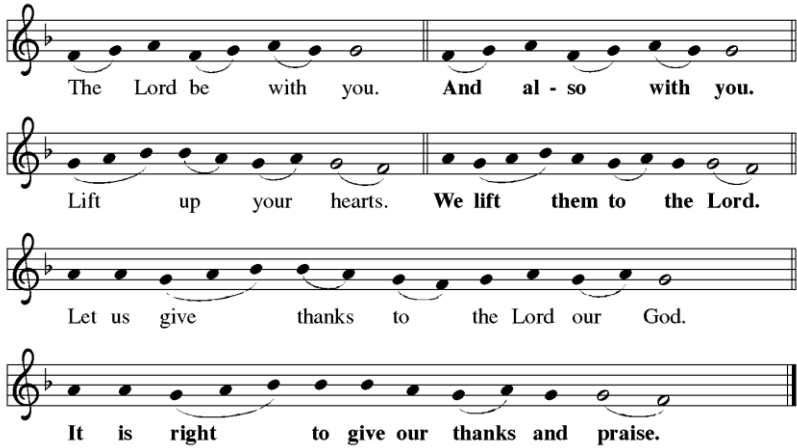
OFFERTORY HYMN

“In the Singing”

Book #466

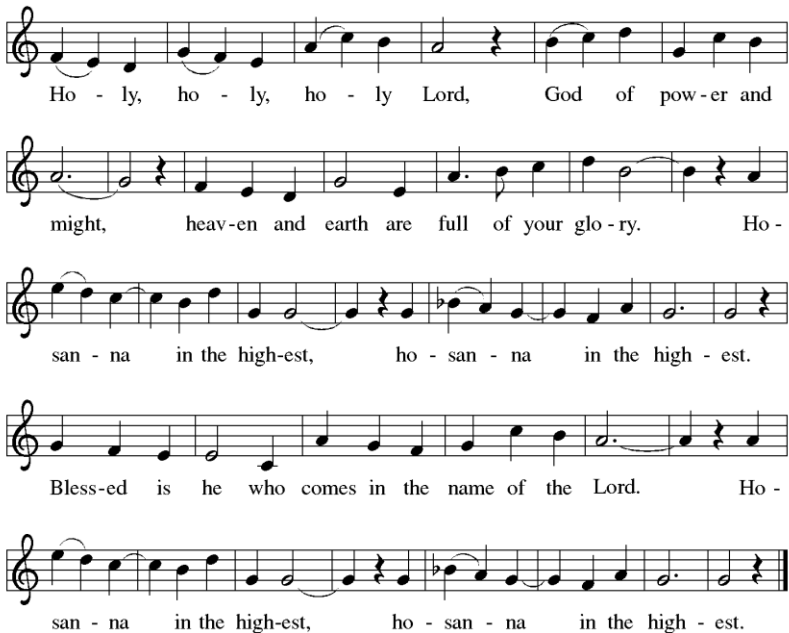
OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

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.**

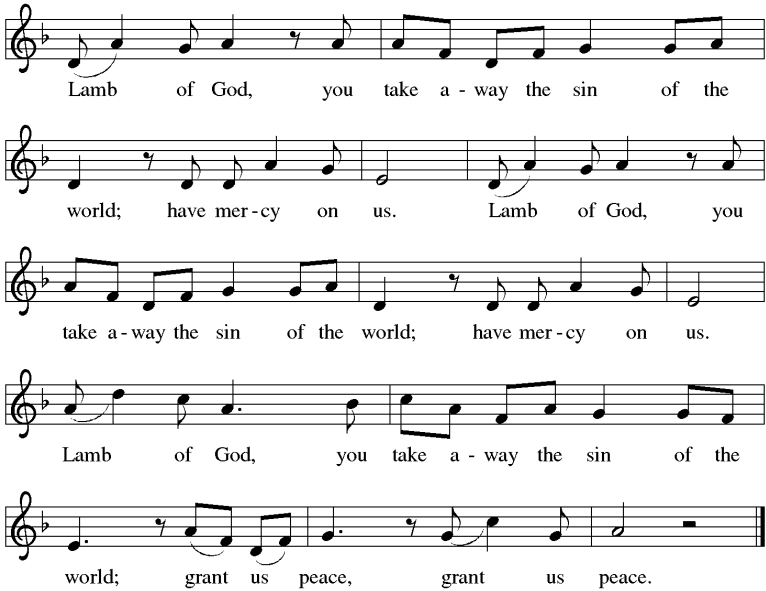
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“Springs of Water, Bless the Lord”

Red Book #214

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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Red Book #504

Jim Cunningham, *trumpeter*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Ein' feste Burg"

- Samuel Scheidt

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Lois Trimbur	Communion Assistant
Tracy Gullickson	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Jim Cunningham	Trumpeter
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Minister
Judy and Bill Vilcheck	Ushers
Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Stan and Jeanne Graff in honor of loved ones.

All are welcome to join us for a cake reception in honor of Evan Stein and Christiaan van Driel following the worship service.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 10/30	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 11/2	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 11/4	9 AM – 12 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Community Dinner Volunteer Retreat at Lutherlyn
	1 PM – 7 PM	Symphony Reception (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 11/5	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be NO 9:00 a.m. Bible study today, October 29th.

Making Affirmation of Baptism today are Evan James Stein and Christiaan Edwin van Driel. Following today's service, a reception will be held in the social hall.

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

Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We will remember those who have died in Christ over the last year. If there is a name you would like included in the prayers, please notify the office by Thursday, Nov. 2.

The church office will be operating remotely on Tuesday, Nov. 7th.

First English will serve as a polling place for the election.

Meals on Wheels Baking Sunday is Nov. 12th. Please bring your items, labeled and packed ready for the freezer in non-returnable containers, to First English by noon on Nov. 12. Monetary donations can be made out

to *Butler Meals on Wheels*. Please see the poster in the social hall for the list of accepted baked goods. Thank you for your goodness!

Hope, Humor, and Holy Dying Sunday, Nov. 12th at 5:30 p.m. Join us for Dinner Church with Monty Python and reflections on how to plan a good funeral (because some of you asked). Please sign up in the social hall if you plan to attend.

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. 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! *If you have not already indicated you are attending, please sign up in the social hall or contact the church office.*

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.

Join us during social hour following the
10 a.m. worship service on Sunday,
November 19th for our third
Intergenerational Faith Formation event
Trees ~ Jeremiah 17:5-8



All ages are welcome! Please sign up in the social hall.
First English Lutheran Church | 241 North Main St. Butler, PA

PRAYERS

Pam Reeder; Greg Reeder; 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

Revelation 7:9-17

The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

1 John 3:1-3

We are God's children

Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit

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