

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

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

"Blessed Assurance"

Red Book #638

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. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING **Amos 5:18-24**

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70 *read responsively*

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

**²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be
disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

**⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who

have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout,

'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Red Book #488

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we wait, center us in the hope that is found only in you. Help each one of us, as we are called, to keep our lamps lit through prayer, worship, and service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Save all people from war. Especially we remember the people of Darfur, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, and Ukraine. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O God who sustains us in all circumstances, we pray for the veterans of this nation, especially those in this community, that they are supported and loved. We also lift up those who work and volunteer with the VA hospital, that their efforts may bring wholeness to those in their care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, you reveal your beauty in early sunsets, but for some of us, the long nights and colder days bring low spirits. Sustain those who struggle through darker days. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you (*especially*). Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

- Swedish Folksong
Don Marlin, *arr.*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“In the Singing”

Red 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.

After all have received, 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

(next page)

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Preacher
Lois Trimbur	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Larry Hamil	Reader

Lois Trimbur	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Tracy Gullickson in memory of Randy Gullickson.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 11/13	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 11/14	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Thurs., 11/16	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Downstairs)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 11/18	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 11/19	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation class will meet today following worship.

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

Meals on Wheels Baking Sunday is today. Please bring your items, labeled and packed ready for the freezer in non-returnable containers, to First English by noon. 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!

Today at 5:30 p.m. we are hosting a dinner church on Hope, Humor and Holy Dying. Please come and enjoy our warped sense of humor as we discuss death and what that means to us as Christians. The usual soup, bread and apple dessert will be served. Please sign up in the social hall or call the office. Hope to see you there!

If you would like to order Christmas flowers this year, the sign-up sheet is posted in the social hall. The last day to order is Sunday, Nov. 26.

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

Jayden; 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

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The day of the LORD

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to
wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be alert for the day of the Lord

Matthew 25:14-30

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

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