

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Ricercar à 3”

- J.S. Bach

“Dayspring of Eternity”

- Helmut Walcha

**WELCOME**

**COMMITMENT OF PLEDGES**

*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, Be Our Light”

Red Book #715

**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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

**THE WORD**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FIRST READING      Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week’s first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,

those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD’s wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth  
were born,**

**from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even  
eighty;**

**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away  
quickly and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden

destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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.

*Repeat alleluia*

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

**GOSPEL      Matthew 25:14-30**

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 second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

**SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Lord of Light”

Red Book #688

**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.*

We pray for the ongoing ministry of the church.

So often it feels as though we are running out of time, money, relevance, and energy.

In anxiety, we would hide and hoard what we think we have.

Increase our trust in you so that we can see the abundance of what you provide for us each day,

And make us ready to return to you what you have generously given us.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those for who live through days of distress or wrath:  
For people trapped in wars so fierce that warriors shake;  
For creation groaning under the burden of pollution;  
For institutions in our country stressed by constant conflict;  
And for those for whom hunger, illness, or pain brings anguish.  
Heal despair and bring hope of new life even in the worst days.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those for whom the coming holidays may feel especially hard:

Those who grieve the lost of loved ones;  
Those who are undergoing infertility;  
Those who are estranged from friends and family;  
Those for who experience financial pressure;  
Those who carry the burden of expectation to make all things joyful.  
Bring them signs of grace each day and light for each next step.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the blessings of this life:  
For the food and for all who work to feed us;  
For the gift of loving relationships, wherever they are found;  
For the communion of faithful people around us,  
And for the great communion of saints who have gone before us.  
Nurture in us grateful hearts, that each day may be a day of  
thanksgiving,  
Until we feast with you in glory.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

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

“Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds” - Traditional American Melody

~ PILGRIM C.M.D.

From *Psalm 90*

*Southern Harmony, 1835*

“Earthly Pleasures Vainly Call Me”

- Bentley D. Ackley

*Matthew 25: 21-23*

SPRING HILL C.M., 1912

*The congregation may stand.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

“In the Singing”

Red Book #466

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God... (*The presiding minister continues giving thanks*)... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

*The prayers conclude:*

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

“Glory Be To God On High”

- Georg Telemann

*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

May God give to you and all those whom you love comfort and peace, light and joy, in this world and the next, and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

Red Book #890

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Triumphal March”

- G.F. Handel

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Amy Beiler	<b>Reader</b>
Christiaan van Driel	<b>Crucifer</b>
Shane Kameron	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>

Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Melody Kamerer	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Stan Graff and Dan Morrow	<b>Ushers</b>
Amy and Jack Beiler	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry and Mollie Hibbs in memory of loved ones.*

*Organ flowers are given to the glory of God by the Cooper family, in honor of Chuck and Roxanne Glagola's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

*All are welcome to join us for an Intergenerational Event following the worship service.*

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Mon., 11/20	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 11/23	Thanksgiving Day	<i>Office Closed</i>
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 11/24	Day after Thanksgiving	<i>Office Closed</i>
Sat., 11/25	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 11/26	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please join us** for our Intergenerational Event following the worship service today.

**Thank you** to everyone who provided the generous donations of baked items for Meals on Wheels.

**Community Dinner is requesting donations of cookies and bars.** Please bring them to the church on Sunday or Monday morning. Thank you!  
**Please send all submissions for the December Newsletter** to Caitlyn by Monday, Nov. 20.

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.

**There will be an Advent Lunch** along with the Intergenerational Event on Sunday, Dec. 3. Meat and place settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Please sign up in the social hall if you plan to attend.

**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**

Marj Rogner; 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; Thelma Hassler; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Aryl Bashline; Holly Schubert; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

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

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*God will shepherd Israel*

**Psalms 95:1-7a**

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (*Ps. 95:7*)

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

*The reign of Christ*

**Matthew 25:31-46**

*The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats*

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