

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Christ the King  
November 26, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Do Not Despair, O Little Flock”

- Johann Pachelbel

“We Gather Together”

- Russell Schulz-Widmar

“Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Loves Me”

- Joy E. Konig

**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 Christ, What Can It Mean for Us”

Red Book #431

## 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. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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**      **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Because Israel’s kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, “my servant David,” who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the

inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 95: 1-7a**

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, <sup>1</sup> are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD is our God,

and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

## SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

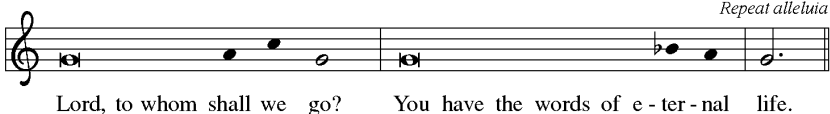
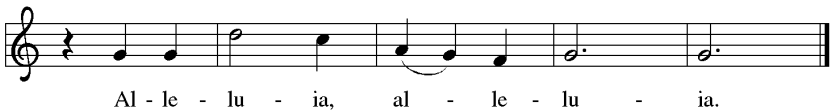
<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL****Matthew 25: 31-46**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands



1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and  
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in  
3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and  
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his  
prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and  
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -  
serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,  
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.  
clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence  
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the  
you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and  
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -  
great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.  
claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.  
main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

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Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## 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.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

*After each petition, the assisting minister bids:*

Hear us, O God.

*The congregation responds:*

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes:*

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**

“Not One Falls”

- Heather Sorenson

(Linda Mathias, *soprano soloist*)

*The congregation may stand.*

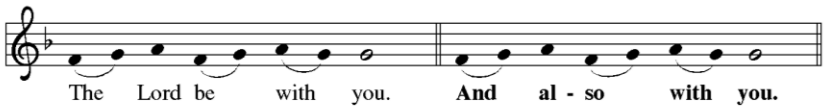
**OFFERTORY HYMN**

“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.

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.*

*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**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Red Book #855

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- Robert Crane

#### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Melody Kameron	<b>Reader</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Crucifer</b>
Tucker Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Judy and Bill Vilcheck	<b>Ushers</b>

Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ramona Schmidt in memory of Bill Schmidt.*

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

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

Mon., 11/27	10:00 AM	Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting
	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 11/30	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 12/2	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 12/3	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Intergenerational Event & Advent Lunch
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**If you would like to order Christmas flowers this year,** the sign-up sheet is posted in the social hall. Today is last day to order!

**Today we begin our annual Christmas Tree Drive** for the Children and Youth Agency of Butler County. Stop by the Christmas Tree to offer your donation or indicate your donation on the special line of your offering envelope, payable to First English Lutheran Church. This will be happening Nov. 26, Dec. 3, and Dec. 10. Thank you!

**There will be an Advent Lunch** along with the Intergenerational Event next Sunday, Dec. 3. Meat and place settings will be provided. Please

bring a dish to share. Please sign up in the social hall today 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**

Myrna Hamil; Linda; Kathy Schweikart Spingola and Charles Spingola; 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**

#### **Isaiah 64:1-9**

*Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*

#### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

#### **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*

#### **Mark 13:24-37**

*The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

### **ZOOM INFO**

To join via telephone, dial: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

**Password: 408299**

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