

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion
First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Tidings of Joy”

- Alice Jordan

“Christmas Pastorale”

- Nicholas J. Lemmens

“In Heav’n Above”

- Margrethe Hokanson

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GATHERING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Red Book #288

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST LESSON**Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

HYMN

"What Child is This?"

Red Book #296

SECOND LESSON**Psalm 148**

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²Praise the Lord, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³Praise the Lord, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

⁷Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

¹³Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.

¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

HYMN

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Red Book #290

THIRD LESSON Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are
children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
“Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child
then also an heir, through God.

HYMN

“Let All Together Praise our God”

st. 1, 2, 5, 6

Red Book #287

FOURTH LESSON John 1:1-5; 10-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" sts. 1, 4, 5 Red Book #295

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary

under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

HYMN

“Cold December Flies Away”

Red Book #299

The congregation may stand.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our
prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole
selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging
for all people in the fullness of their being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the
new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep
us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in
harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (*especially*). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace (*especially*). Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

While the offering is collected, the musicians make offerings of music and the table is set for Holy Communion.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Berenden väg för Herran”

- David Schelat

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Love Has Come”

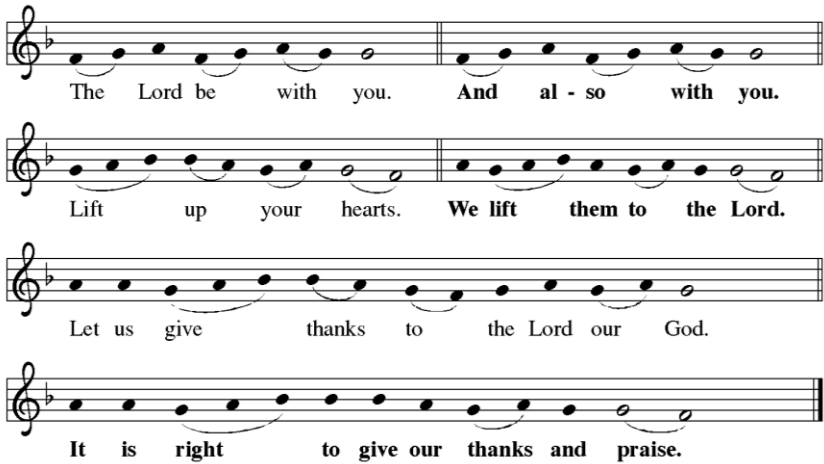
sts. 1 and 3

Red Book #292

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



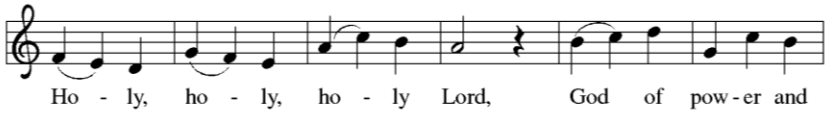
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

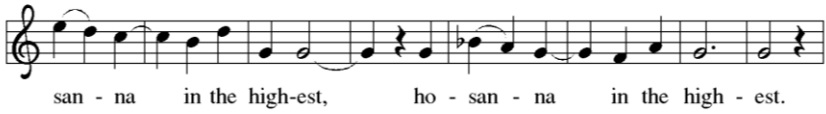
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



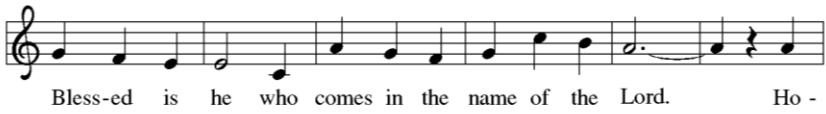
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



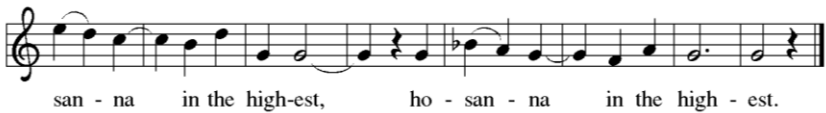
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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.

We thank you, O God,
At the beginning your Word created light,
And made us and all that exists.
By your Word, you chose a people, Israel, for yourself.
You set them free from slavery in Egypt,
And spoke to them by the prophets.
By your word you lead us into wisdom and create faith in our hearts.
We thank you, O God, for speaking.
We praise you, O God, for your Word.

We thank you, O God,
For sending your Son, Jesus to be born like us,
In a city called Bethlehem,
which means "house of bread."
We thank you that his bed was a manger,
Where animals found their food.
Now crucified and risen, he is for us the bread of life.
We thank you, O God, for feeding us.
We praise you, O God, for bread.

On the night, when he was betrayed,
He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Great, therefore, is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God,
as we take this bread and cup,
we remember him in the manger;
we remember him on the cross;
we remember him rising from the dead;
we look forward to his coming again!
Come again, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!

We pray for your Spirit,
Who leads us in love and service.
Make our city a house of bread, where no one is hungry.
Make our homes into mangers, filled with forgiveness and love.
Make us one with your people around the world and throughout time,
That we may be one with you in the communion of saints.

Come to us, Holy Spirit!
Come, Holy Spirit!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in unity with the Holy Spirit,
we praise you O God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as members of Christ's family, we pray as he taught us with one heart and voice:

**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

Here with bread and wine is the Word made flesh. 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 *(at the center aisle)*

You are invited to receive Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that the body and blood of Christ are present with the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who cannot consume wheat; please let the pastor know. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may still come forward and kneel for a blessing from the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

Red Book #277

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *led by the assisting minister*

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“The First Noel”

Red Book #300

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Vom Himmel Hoch”

- Charles Callahan

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister
Lois Trimbur	Communion Assistant
Chuck McMichael	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Shane Kamerer	Acolyte

Signe Mitchell	Organist
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ted and Joan Giese, in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Organ flowers are given to the glory of God by the Glagola family, in loving memory of Ryan.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 1/1		No Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 1/4	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 1/6	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 1/7	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The Sunday PowerPoint Ministry is looking for additional people to serve our zoom congregation by helping stream the PowerPoint orders of service every week. Because of changes in the current team's schedules and availability, we may have to discontinue the use of PowerPoint on a regular basis if we are unable to find additional volunteers. We believe, however, that this ministry does help people at home to worship and would like to maintain it if possible. Do you have some basic understanding of zoom and Microsoft office? Then we can

train you! Please contact Pr. Kimberly at pkfelc@zoominternet.net if you are interested.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th following the 10 a.m. worship service.

In this season, we have resumed passing the offering plate as a part of our worship service. This practice allows us to remember that giving is an act of worship, even as we recognize now that many of us give online or through mail. All that we have is a gift from God and we give out of gratitude, however we give!

PRAYERS

Owen; family of Rose "Roe" Goda; family of Mairead Magee; Chris and Jodie; Kathy Rhodes, her husband Ken, and family; Tonnie van Driel; family of Frank Franzen; Vicki Shields Cannon; Jayden; Jan Nieto; Myrna Hamil; Linda; Kathy Schweikart Spingola and Charles Spingola; Marj Rogner; Pam Reeder; Greg Reeder; Carol Cunningham; family of Zema Schaney; Frank Miller; family of Tony Sequite; Mackenzie Perkins; 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

Genesis 1:1-5

God creates light God creates light

Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 19:1-7

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

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