

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Cornet Voluntary”

- Orlando Gibbons

“Communion”

- Louis Vierne

Prelude on “Old 124th”

- Healey Willan

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation may kneel, sit, or adopt another posture appropriate for confession.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the

entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Red Book #886

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. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone

who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 *read responsively*

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant
forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise
endures forever.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone

who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Hallelujah”

Red Book #171

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he

cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

Red Book #614

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

As we celebrate the revelation of God in the humanity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of love and light,
The language of unclean spirits is unfamiliar to us,
But pride and irritation,
Hurt and manipulation, we know.
We pray that you would renew a right spirit within us.
Remove from us all ugly impulses.
Help each of us in our speaking and listening to bear the fruits of your Holy Spirit:
Love and joy, peace and patience, generosity and faithfulness, kindness and gentleness, self-control.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for Christians who bring ministries of healing and hope
Amidst circumstances of violence, war, and persecution,
Especially those with whom we share relationships through the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief:
For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land,
For the churches of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Colombia and Venezuela, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.
Ease their suffering, and help us to share their burdens, their hopes, and their prayers.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift up to you all those who write and speak for a living:
Journalists, writers, teachers, researchers.
Let them use their words in the service of truth and in the building up of people.
When their words are truthful, let them be met with open ears and hearts,
And with gracious response.
Hear us, O God:
Your mercy is great.

We name before you those who have asked for our prayers this week:
For our congregation, as we gather in our annual meeting later this morning...
For Gavin, Tom, and Amy, and all others in need of healing.
For those who are sick...

For those in recovery...

For those who are dealing with long and complicated grief...

For a spirit of hope to fill us as we name before you those who have died.

Give all of us

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Accept these prayers, O God, and those we name in our hearts before you
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Wie Schön Leuchtet Der Morgenstern”

- J. S. Bach

The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lord of All Power and Might”

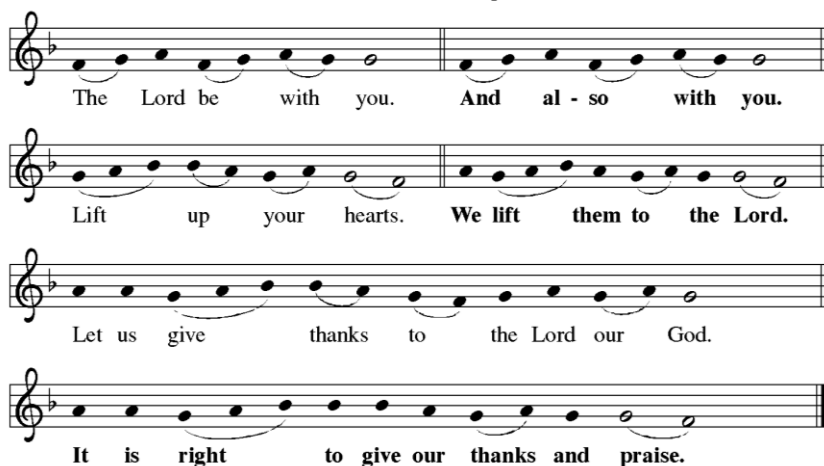
- Geoffrey Shaw

The congregation may stand.

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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Refrain

Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the

mwa - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwa - ba ni sa - la -
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my

ma, ndi - ye mwa - ba ni sa - la - ma.
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I

storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

Refrain

flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

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English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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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 and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Oh, Worship the King”

Red Book #842

Stanzas 1-3 before the annual meeting

Stanzas 4-5 to close the annual meeting

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

- Wilbur Held

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Susan Farrell	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese and Gracie Love	PowerPoint Ministers
Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Karen and Bob Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Judy Vilcheck
in memory of loved ones.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 1/29	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 2/1	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 2/3	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 2/4	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Confirmation
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following the 10 a.m. worship service today. Following the meeting, *there will be cake!* We will be celebrating Ted Giese's years of volunteer ministry with the newsletter and Sharon Heist Miller's twelve years of serving as Education Coordinator.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sign up in the social hall or contact the church office!



Community Dinner Requests Donations of:

canned soups, stews, vegetables, tuna, chicken, beans of all kinds, fruit, canned milk, shelf stable milk, non-dairy milk, powdered milk, dry creamer, peanut butter, cooking oil, nuts and seeds, uncooked rice and barley, pasta, canned or plastic jarred pasta sauce, cereal, oatmeal, granola, crackers, healthy snacks, protein bars, beef jerk, dried fruit, canned fruit and vegetable juices, and baby food

Please, no glass containers and remember to check expiration dates.

Donations can be placed in the collection container in the Brady St. vestibule on Sundays.

Thank you for being a blessing to our community!

Tickets for the 2024 Gala to benefit Butler Community Dinners are available for purchase from Tracy Gullickson and MaryAnn Swanson.

PRAYERS

Amy and Tom Lavorini; Gavin; family of David Riggs; family of Mary Ann Rudzki; Jeff Boyd; Betty Thomas; 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

Isaiah 40:21-31

The creator of all cares for the powerless

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A servant for the sake of the gospel

Mark 1:29-39

The healing of Peter’s mother-in-law

ZOOM INFO

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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