

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Baptism of Our Lord
January 7, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesus, Name All Names Above”
“Kings to Thy Rising”

- David N. Johnson
- Frank C. Butcher

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Red Book #310

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. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 *read responsively*

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Hallelujah"

Red Book #171

GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and

untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

sts. 1 and 2

Red Book #455

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

sts. 3 and 4

Red Book #455

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 light,

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation, at the baptism of Jesus, and at the baptism of all who are called now by his name. We pray that this year you would bring many people to the baptismal font, so that they may receive the life, forgiveness, and love you offer.

Hear us, O God: **your mercy is great.**

We thank you for the waters that surround us: for the gift of rain and snow, for Connoquenessing Creek, the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela Rivers, and we pray for those whose work protects water and allows us to drink: plumbers and well-drillers; water treatment and sewer employees, and those who research and steward the health of the environment.

Hear us, O God: **your mercy is great.**

We ask your mercy on people who thirst or whose access to water is threatened by war, poverty, and injustice. We remember especially the people of Gaza, Flint, Jackson, and all other places parched by drought or disaster.

Hear us, O God: **your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing of love to descend on a world that often seems to reflect chaos rather than the goodness of your created order. Still the threats of wider war in the Middle East; bring peace to the people of Nigeria, Ukraine, and Sudan; and give the people of this country level-headedness as we move into a season of national elections.

Hear us, O God: **your mercy is great.**

We lift up those who have requested our prayers: for healing for Jeff, Linda, and David, and for all others who are sick or recovering from injuries; and for all those who are most on our minds....

Hear us, O God: **your mercy is great.**

We name with grateful hearts those whose baptism into Christ is now complete in death, and who remain now in his promise of eternal life. Help us in each day to hold on to this promise.

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

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

- Gerhard Krapf

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“When John Baptized by Jordan’s River” - Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561

Harry Cunningham, *pianist*

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

“Baptized and Set Free”

Red Book #453

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

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” sts. 1, 3, 4 Red Book #308

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” - Johann Christoph Bach

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Jim Cunningham	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Larry Hamil	Reader
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Karen and Bob Domanski; Brenden Stevens	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 1/8	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 1/9	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 1/10	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs., 1/11	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	1:30 PM	Worship Steering
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 1/12	6 – 9:00 PM	Paws Across Pittsburgh (Social Hall)
Sat., 1/13	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 1/14	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The previously announced congregation service project for January 7 has been postponed.

Annual Reports are due to Caitlyn in the church office
(officefelc@zoominternet.net) on January 12.

There will be NO Sunday morning Bible study on January 14.

Save the Date for the next Intergenerational Event on Sunday, January 21 following the 10 a.m. worship service.

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

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 AV Ministry (responsible for coordinating the livestream of our worship services) is also seeking new participants! Do you like computers and tech? Would you be interested in helping our congregation stay connected to folks who are sick, traveling, or homebound? Then this ministry might be right for you! Email Marlin Boltz at marlinboltz@hotmail.com if interested.

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

Dave and Linda Riggs; 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

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

The calling of Samuel

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out and known me. *(Ps. 139:1)*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in your body

John 1:43-51

The calling of the first disciples

ZOOM INFO

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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