

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
February 11, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Trio in G Major”

- J. S. Bach

“Meditation on Adoro Te Devote”

- Plainsong; Alfred Fedak, *arr.*

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✝}$  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**

“How Good, Lord, to be Here”

Red Book #315

## **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. Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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**

**2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today’s reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel

came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 50:1-6**

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**<sup>4</sup>God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

## SECOND READING     2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Hallelujah"

Red Book #171

## GOSPEL             Mark 9:2-9

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no

one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### O Beauty Ever Ancient



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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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

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.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe its beauty. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for people and places throughout the world that need a glimpse of your glory and love so that they may endure a time of agony with hope. We remember the people of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, South Sudan, and all others engulfed in war. We remember the people of California, as they recover from natural disaster. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. Help us to honor human dignity in every person we encounter, and, in our daily lives, to use words and actions that reflect your beauty. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died (*especially*). Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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**

“Be Still and Know”

- Anthony Giamanco

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

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

“Go Up to the Mountain of God”

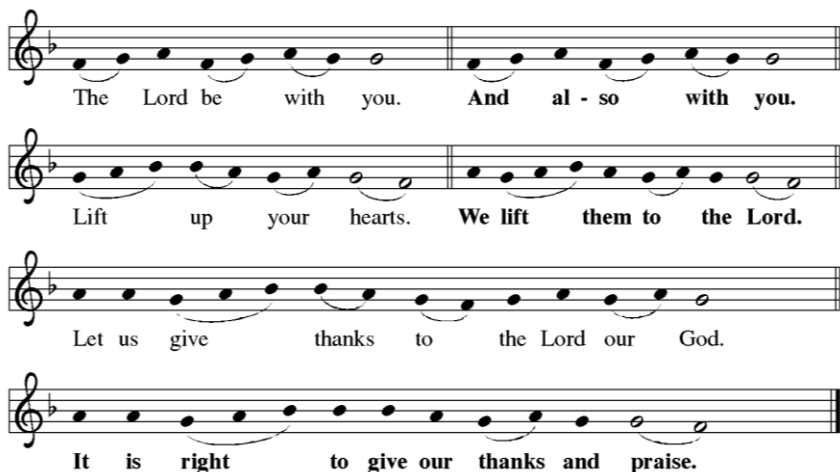
- Michael Helman

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*led by the assisting minister*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



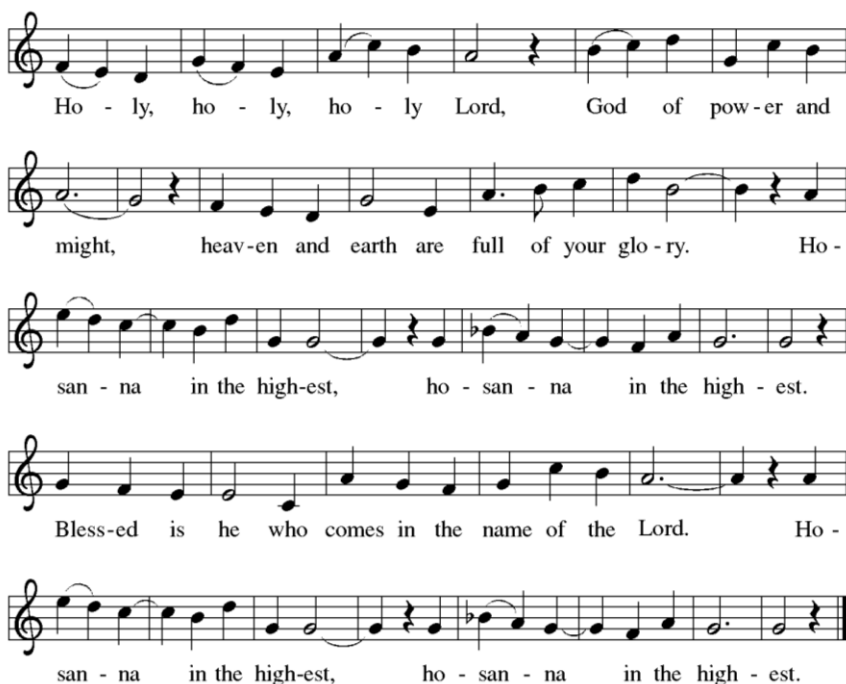
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

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

ma, ndi - ye mwam - 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

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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**

“Beautiful Savior”

Red Book #838

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Mighty Savior”

David Hurd; Joyce Moon Strobel, *arr.*

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Tracy Gullickson	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Shane Kameron	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Josh Kameron	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski; Brenden Stevens	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack and Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bob and Karen Domanski,  
in honor of Bob's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday.*

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

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

Mon., 2/12	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 2/13	5:30-6:30 PM	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting

Wed., 2/14	8:00 AM	Health Clinic Meeting (Social Hall)
	12:15 PM	Ash Wednesday Spoken Service
	7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs., 2/8	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 2/17	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 2/18	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Intergenerational Event
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Assisting Ministers** will meet following today's worship service in the sanctuary.

**If you would like a copy of the Lent Devotional, *Wandering Heart: Figuring out Faith with Peter***, please sign up in the social hall or contact the church office.

**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!

Please Join Us  
**Ash Wednesday - February 14th**

Brief Spoken Service  
with the Imposition of Ashes  
at **12:15 pm**

Service of Holy Communion  
with the Imposition of Ashes  
at **7:30 pm**

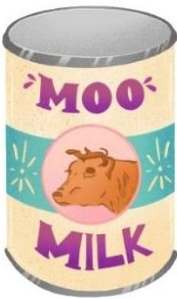
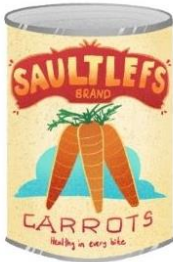
**First English Lutheran Church**  
241 N. Main St. Butler, PA 16001  
[www.FirstEnglishButler.org](http://www.FirstEnglishButler.org)



**Please email any updates** for the church directory (photos or contact information) to the office [officfelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officfelc@zoominternet.net) by February 27.

**Tickets for the 2024 Gala** to benefit Butler Community Dinners on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> are available for purchase from Tracy Gullickson and MaryAnn Swanson.

**The next intergenerational event** will take place next Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll be looking at how to "get into" the Bible through the eyes of Jesus' disciple Peter—and getting prepared for Lent too! Stay for special snacks, community building, and learning.



## **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!

## **PRAYERS**

Charlie and Lori; Jan Nieto; 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; 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 9:8-17**

*The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*

**Psalms 25:1-10**

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

*Saved through water*

**Mark 1:9-15**

*The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

## **ZOOM INFO**

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

**Password: 408299**

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