

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Lent
March 3, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“O Mensch, Bewein’ Dein’ Sünde Gross”

- J. S. Bach

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

- David Johnson

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Red Book #705

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

Red Book #157

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor

and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 *read responsively*

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends of the world,**

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again;**

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the
eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?**

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

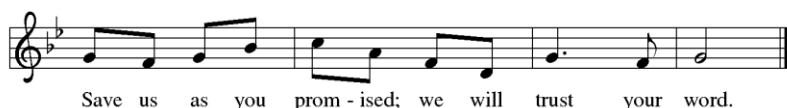
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For
since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save
those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire
wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's
foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger
than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 2:13-22

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Canticle of the Turning”

Red Book #723

APOSTLES CREED

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

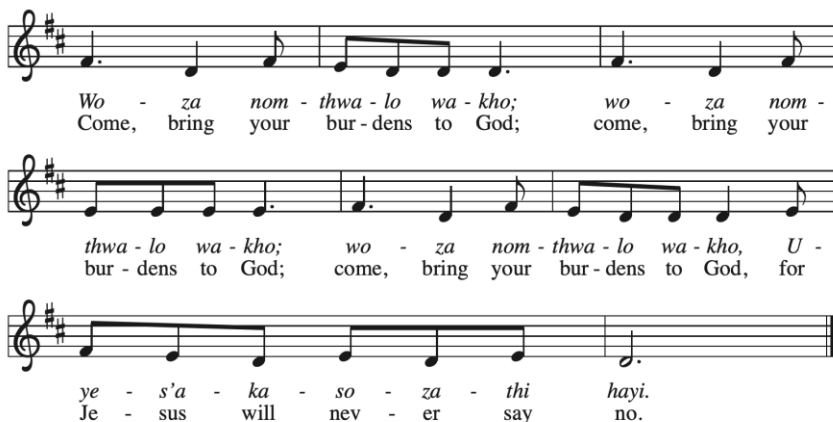
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of 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.

SONG

(sung 3 times)

Come, Bring Your Burdens



Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick

Music: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO, South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi

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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.

O God, our highest good, you gave the commandments to your people so that we might honor and love you above all things. Save us from the idolatries of nation, culture, money, pride, and success, so that we might revel in the freedom of simply being yours. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your Son cleansed the temple and said, “Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” Give us moral clarity about our practices of buying and selling, labor and profit. Give justice to victims of human trafficking and to those whose hard work does not earn a fair living. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, do not leave those who suffer violence, war, and displacement without hope. Hear our prayers especially for children who suffer in Ukraine, Sudan, Chad, Gaza and the Holy Land. Raise up leaders who care about their future. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

God of immeasurable grace, we name before you those who have asked for our prayers this week: for those who are sick, those who are incarcerated, for those who struggle with addiction, and for those who live in addiction's wake.... Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

God of resurrection, your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom and your weakness stronger than our strength. Help us in our weakness to trust in the strange power of the cross, that we may see even in the hour of our death the gate to life. We commend to you our beloved dead, trusting that by your Son we are being saved. 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

Lent – “Audi, benigne Conditor”

- Camil Van Hulse

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Ten Commandments”

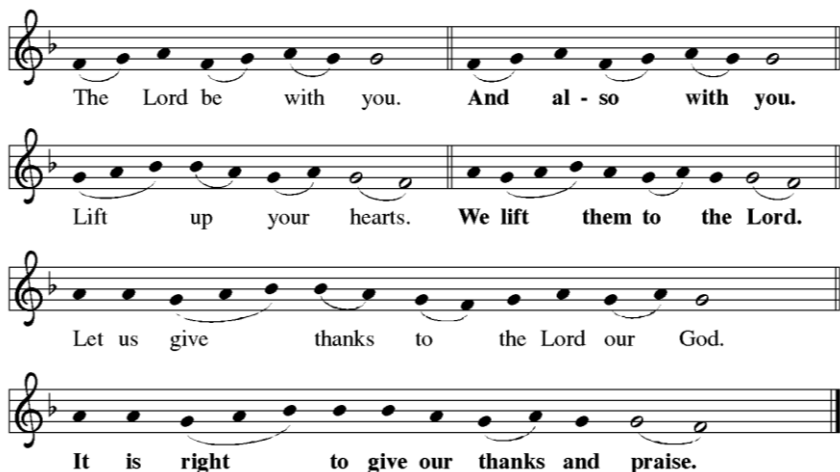
- Shirley L. Brown

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



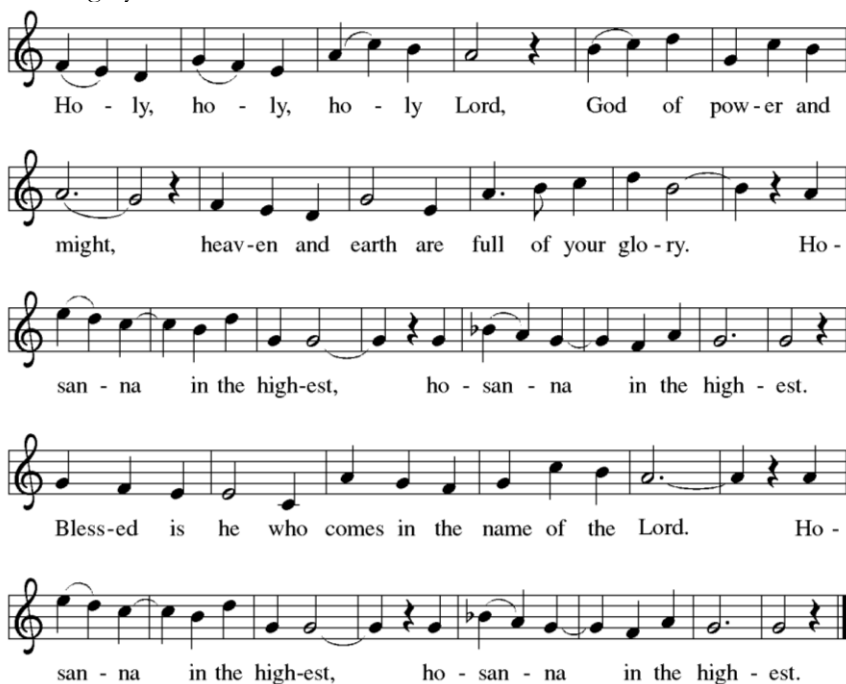
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Take them in remembrance
that Christ died for you and feed on him your hearts with thanksgiving.

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

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

Red Book 814

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us. 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

Almighty God, Father, Son + Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

Red Book #856

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Vater unser im Himmelreich”

- J. S. Bach

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
The Rev. Ryan Fitch	Preacher
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Amy Beiler	Reader
Lois Trimbur	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Signe Mitchell, in memory of loved ones.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 3/4	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 3/7	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 3/8	9 AM -2:30 PM	Church Office Closed

Sat., 3/9	10 AM – 2 PM	Quiet Day for Lent
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 3/10	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office will be closed on Friday, March 8.

If you would like to order Easter flowers, please sign up in the social hall or contact the church office by Sunday, March 10.

Midweek Lenten Worship will take place at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays in Lent at Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 Sunset Dr., Butler, PA.

“Created for Community”

March 6th – In community with our neighbor

March 13th – In community with those on the margins

March 20th - In community with Christ

Lent Quiet Day – Saturday, March 9

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

“Quiet Days” come from the Anglican Christian tradition. They are exactly what they sound like – a time for quiet prayer and devotion, with no agenda. This event will be open house. The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation and rest. In the social hall, there will be prayer stations that take us through the passion of Jesus through the eyes of Peter.

Come anytime, stay as long as you need – and bring a friend! Healthy snacks and coffee will also be available.

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

Raffle Basket Request: If you or a group would like to put a basket together to benefit the Community Meal Ministries Gala & Art Show that will be held the weekend of April 13 & 14 at St Michael’s Hall, please have your basket to First English by Thursday, April 4. Please give your basket a title and add a list of contents & name of the donor. This basket raffle is an important part of our event! Questions? Please see Tracy Gullickson or MaryAnn Swanson.

Do you give online through tithe.ly? Or do you send contributions to

the church directly? Would you still like to participate in the offering during worship? Use the new “I give online” cards found in the card holders in the pew.

PRAYERS

Cheryl Stirling; Kenneth Mathias; Lucas Barber; 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

Numbers 21:4-9

The lifting up of the serpent

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

Saved by grace through faith for good works

John 3:14-21

The lifting up 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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