

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"What Is the World to Me?"	- Richard Hillert
"Why Are You Troubled, O My Heart?"	- J. C. Bach
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"	- Paul Bunjes

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

“Bless Now, Oh God, the Journey”

Red Book #326

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. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a

serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

read responsively

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his

grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 3:14-21

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the

world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Red Book #666

APOSTLES CREED

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

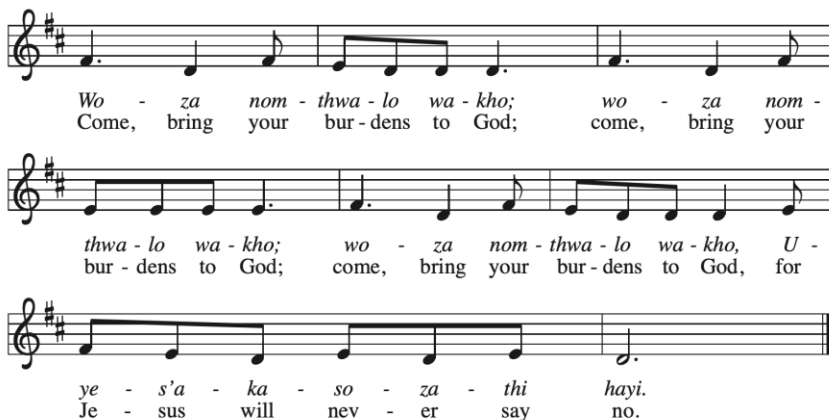
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of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

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

Hear us, O God:

The congregation responds:

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes:

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

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

- Ralph Vaughan Williams and
Ronald Arnatt, *arr.*

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

- John Stainer

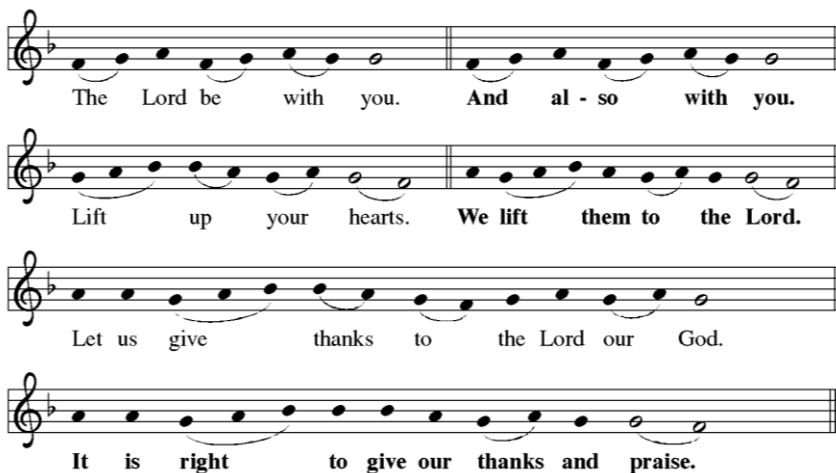
John 3: 16, 17

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



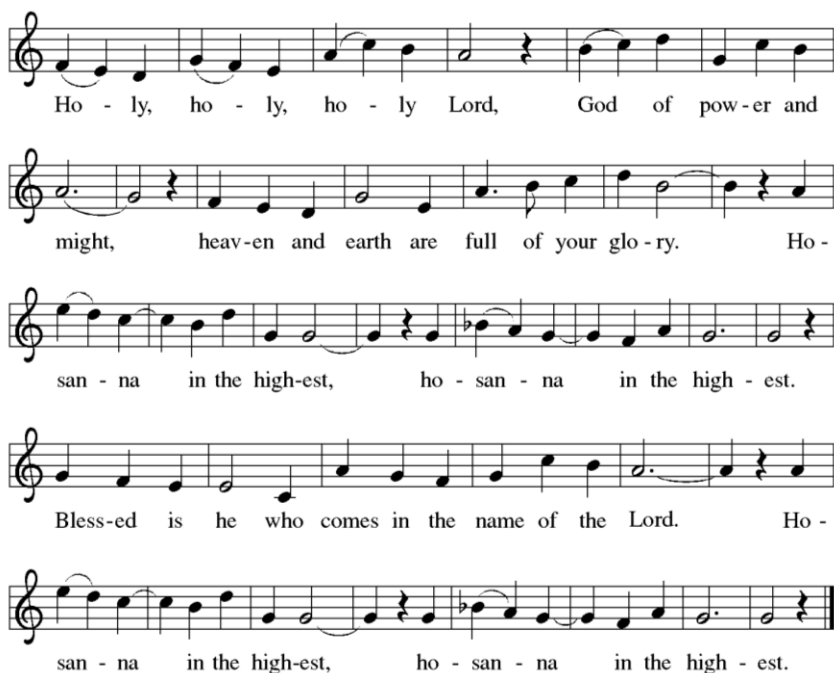
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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:



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

“Lift High the Cross”

Red Book #660

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

- Ithamar Conkey

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Jim Cunningham	Communion Assistant
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Evan Stein	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	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., 3/11	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 3/12	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 3/13	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs., 3/14	10:30 AM	Bible Study

	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 3/16	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 3/17	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Intergenerational Event (Social Hall)
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last day to order Easter flowers, please sign up in the social hall or contact the church office.

Submissions for the April Newsletter are due in the church office by Thursday, March 14.

There will be an Intergenerational Event next Sunday, March 17, following the morning worship service.

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 13 – In community with those on the margins

March 20 - In community with Christ

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up in the social hall if you plan to attend.

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. Questions? Please see Tracy Gullickson or MaryAnn Swanson.

Do you give online through tithe.ly? Do you send contributions to the church directly? Would you still like to participate in the offering during worship? Use the “I give online” cards found in the card holders in the pew.



Holy Week at First English

March 24th - Palm Sunday - Worship at 10 a.m.

March 28th - Maundy Thursday - Dinner Church at 6:30 p.m.

March 29th - Good Friday - Worship at 7:30 p.m.

March 31st - Easter Sunday - Worship at 10 a.m.

with Easter potluck coffee hour following worship

www.firstenglishbutler.org

241 North Main Street Butler, PA 16001

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant written on the heart

Psalms 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

Hebrews 5:5-10

Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation

John 12:20-33

The grain of wheat dying in the earth

ZOOM INFO

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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