

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”- Gerhard Krapf/Hermann Schroeder
“Alla Manuetto” - Ernest Smith
“Welcome Happy Morning” - Wilbur Held

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

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

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

Red Book #377

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

THIS IS THE FEAST

page 196 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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

Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God’s promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ’s death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus’ name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you

handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4 *read responsively*

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING **1 John 3:1-7**

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is

that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Thine is the Glory"

st. 1

Red Book #376

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his

name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Who Once Were Dead”

Red Book #495

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
 dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, build up our faith and lead us to be generous to others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God in Christ you cleanse our hearts from sin. Cleanse the world from sin and lawlessness, from war, from hatred, from violence, and bring about our peace for all in Christ Jesus. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct those who seek to expand the field of our human expertise in science and technology, that learning may be shaped by a desire to serve and build up the earth and all creatures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God, like a loving parent you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty (*especially*). Bring peace and rest to those who struggle with insomnia or persistent anxiety, for in you we can rest secure. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God, source of all, you bring all people together in you. Help First English to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry here in Butler. Teach us to long for the beloved community you have made possible through the cross of your Son. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died (*especially*). As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

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

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

- John Leavitt

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

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING HYMN

“Thine is the Glory”

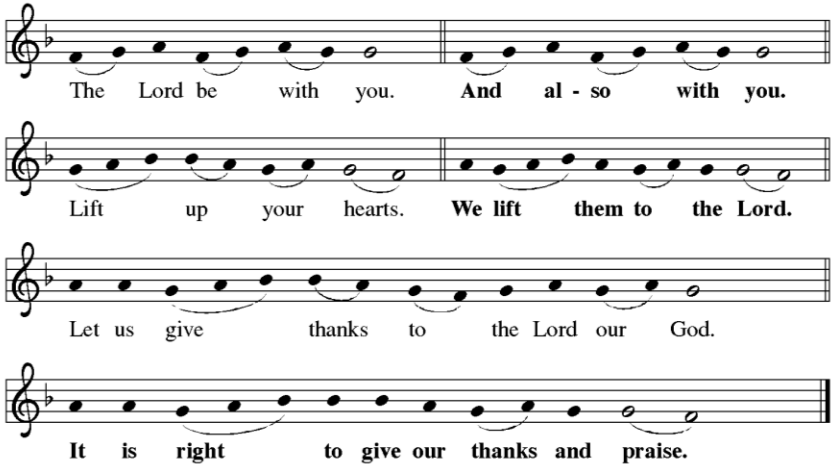
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Red Book #376

OFFERING PRAYER

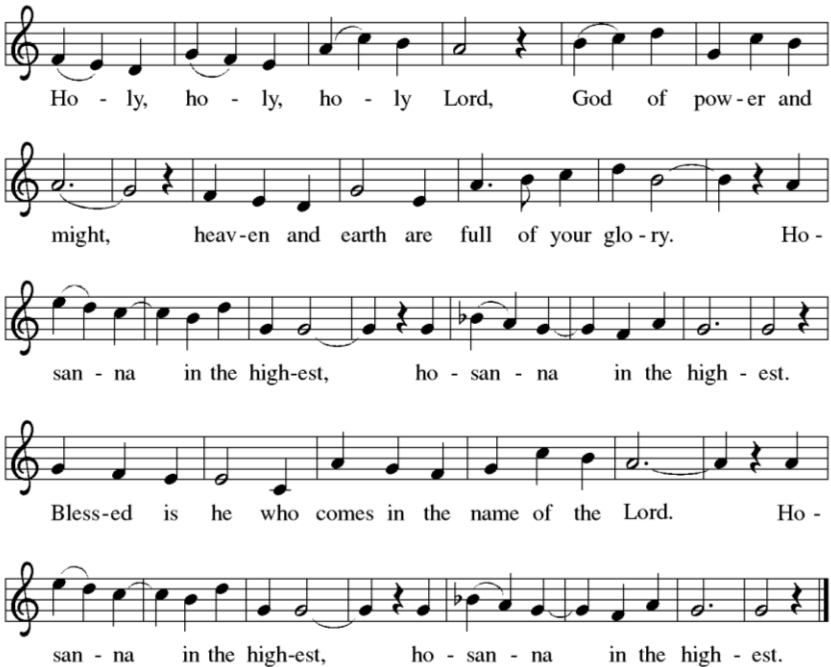
led by the assisting minister

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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father ... 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....

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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,

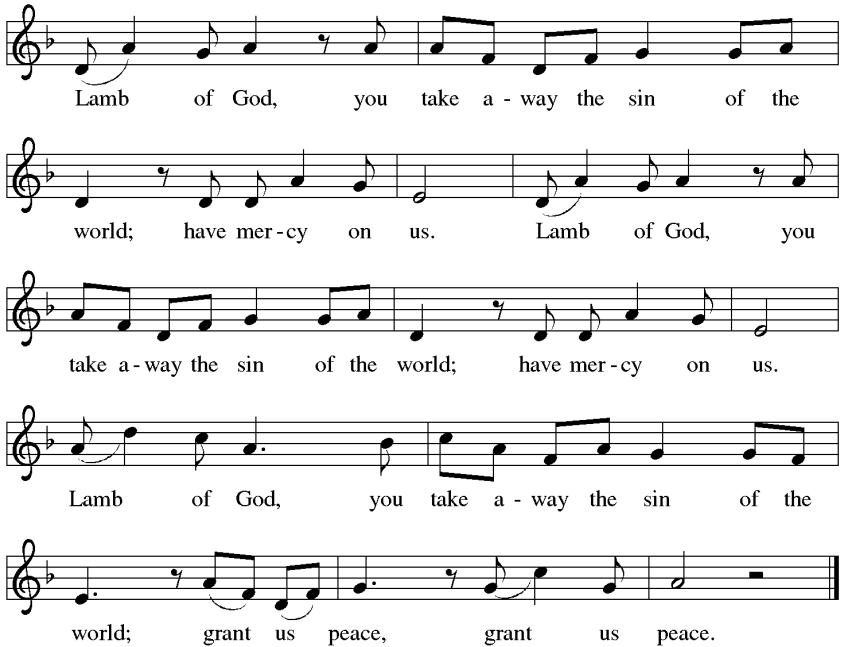
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Come to this feast of resurrection and new life.

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

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Red Book #522

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 who has brought us from death to life fill us with peace. Almighty God, Father, Son + Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Red Book #391

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

- Robert A. Hobby

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Communion Assistant
Chuck McMichael	Reader
Evan Stein	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Gracie Love	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Jeanette and Jim Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Farrell in memory of Gretchen.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/15	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 4/18	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/20	9:30 AM	Council Retreat at Lutherlyn

	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/21	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you interested in making First English your church home? Pastor Kimberly will hold information and get to know you sessions about First English following worship today and also on Sunday, May 5. If you are interested in joining the congregation but can't make those dates, please contact her at pkfelc@zoominternet.net or 724-283-2378. Blessings!

The weekend backpack program of the Golden Tornado Foundation needs boxes of cereal. Please consider donating! All cereal varieties except Cap'n Crunch (which is currently under a nationwide recall) will be accepted. A large box is stationed outside of Pr. Kimberly's office to receive donations. Thank you!

Submissions for the May Newsletter are due in the church office by Friday, April 19.

The Council and Staff Retreat at Lutherlyn will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Woodland Lodge beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Save the Date! Our next Intergenerational Faith Formation Event will be next Sunday, April 21 following the worship service. Our theme will be "Listening like a Lutheran to God's Word."

Members of the congregation are reminded that they need to commune once a year to remain voting members. If you are communing today, please fill out a communion card located in the pew racks. Thank you!

PRAYERS

The family of Tom Zarnick; Randy Kosior; Carolyn Shanor; Karen Cranmer; Carol Sawford; family of Leanne Bushaw; Abbie; C. J. Williams; Evan; 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 Mairaed Magee; Chris and Jodie; Kathy Rhodes, her husband Ken, and family; Tonnie van Driel; family of Frank Franzen; 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

Acts 4:5-12

Salvation in the name of Jesus

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

1 John 3:16-24

Love in truth and action

John 10:11-18

Christ the shepherd

ZOOM INFO

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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