

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Pastorale”

- Charles Wesley

“Christ Is Arisen”

- Charles Callahan

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

- Kevin Hildebrand

**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**

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” sts. 1-4; 7-8 Red Book #362

## **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. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

#### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the

people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23**     *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING**     **1 John 3:16-24**

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God

is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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 John 10:11-18**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Red Book #502

## **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.*

God our shepherd, help your church to listen to your voice and call us away from things that distract us from following you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator of all that is, look with love on every animal that walks, swims, and flies on earth, and help us to live in balance with other species. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, help all those with earthly power to share it and to use such power for good. We pray for peace to prevail throughout the world in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Israel, Haiti, and in all places where violence casts a long shadow. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the vulnerable and guide this community to do the same. Today, we lift up to you those who live without housing, those who suffer from mental illness, and those who are institutionalized. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, invite First English to serve more deeply those people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. Give us creativity with the world's goods: our finances, this building, and our location, to make your love known. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day, until we dwell with them in your house forever. 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**

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” - Kevin Hildebrand

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

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

“Shepherd of My Life” - Joseph M. Martin

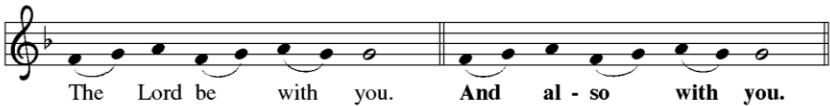
(*incorporating* “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”)

*The congregation may stand.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*led by the assisting minister*

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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.

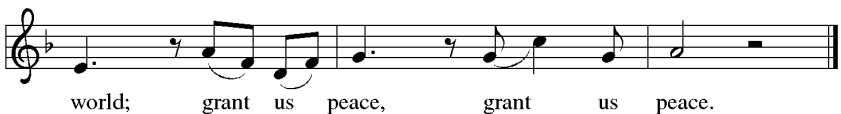
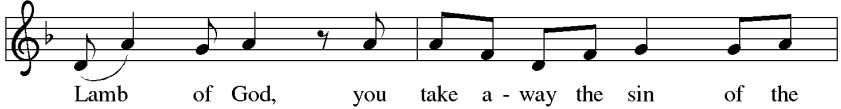
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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



*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.*

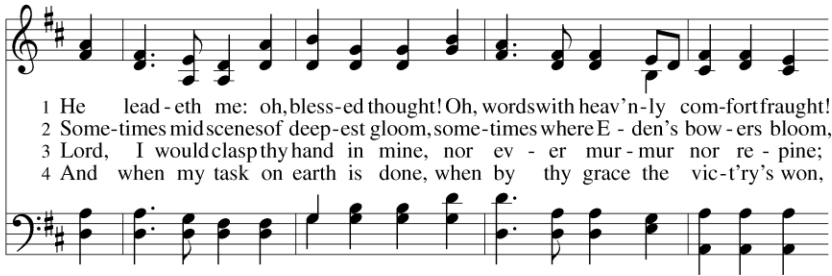
## **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

“He Leadeth Me”

*(next page)*

Green Book #501

# He Leadeth Me



1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!  
2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E-den's bow-ers bloom,  
3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev-er mur-mur nor re-pine;  
4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,

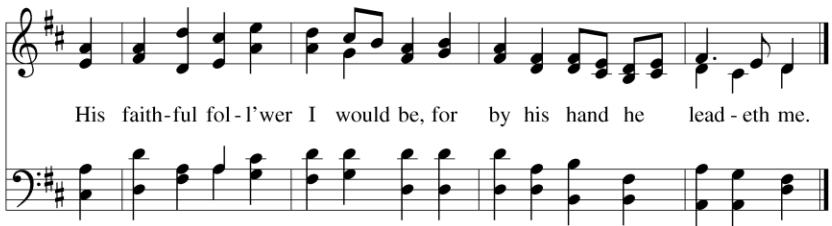


What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
by wa-ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
con-tent, what-ev-er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead-eth me.  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor-dan lead-eth me.

*Refrain*



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.

## **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**

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

Red Book #544

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Thee Will I Love”

- J. B. König

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Tracy Gullickson	<b>Reader</b>
Christiaan van Driel	<b>Crucifer</b>
Tucker Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Karen and Bob Domanski	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the van Driel family.*

*All are welcome to join us for an Intergenerational Faith Formation Event following the worship service.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/22	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 4/23	9 AM – 2:30 PM	<i>Church Office Operating Remotely</i>
Thurs., 4/25	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/27	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/28	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All are invited to join us** for our Intergenerational Faith Formation Event following the worship service. Our theme is “Listening like a Lutheran to God’s Word.” There will be hot fudge sundaes as a theme snack! Curious why? Join us!

**First English serves as a polling place** on Tuesday, April 23 for the primary elections. The church office will be operating remotely.

**Confirmation Class** will meet Sunday, April 28 following worship.

**Are you interested in making First English your church home?** Pastor Kimberly will hold an information and get to know you session about First English following worship 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](mailto: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!

**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**

Elaine Cavanaugh; Laine Repic; Rappaport family; Cory and Emi; Bill Brown; 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 Mairead 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; 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 8:26-40**

*Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian*

**Psalms 22:25-31**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

**1 John 4:7-21**

*God’s love perfected in love for one another*

**John 15:1-8**

*Christ the vine*

## **ZOOM INFO**

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

**Password: 408299**

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