

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Praise the Almighty”

- David Schack

“Lobe den Herren”

- Helmut Walcha

“There Is a Fountain”

- Setting/ Raymond Haan

**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**

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

Red Book #449

**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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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**

**Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her

entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 22:25-31**

*(read responsively)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **SECOND READING    1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 15:1-8**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Blessed Spring”

Red Book #447

## **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.*

We pray for the church around the world. Make us mindful of the common  
life we share in Christ. Help every congregation with the blessed but messy  
work of community and cleanse us with your word. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of the earth, especially for creeks, and streams,  
rivers and lakes. Help us honor your gift of water, cleanse pollution, and use  
it in balance with all of creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for wisdom and insight, as passions from the Israeli-Gaza war settle within divisions in our own nation. We pray especially for college campuses that are stressed and unsafe, for Jewish and Muslim communities that live with fear and pressure, and for a renewal in us all of a deep dedication to the value of human life. God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, for victims of war throughout the world, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially those who have requested our prayers... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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**

“Ricercar – Christ Is Arisen”

- Johann K. F. Fischer

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

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

“God Is Love”

- Ruth Elaine Schram (ASCAP)

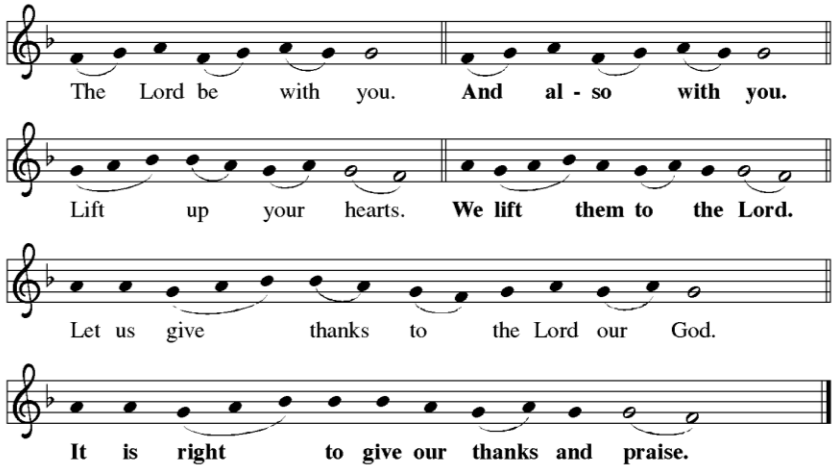
*(adapted from 1 John 4:7-11)*

*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.

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.

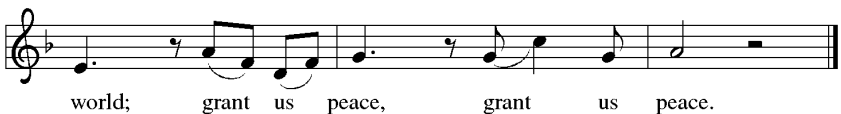
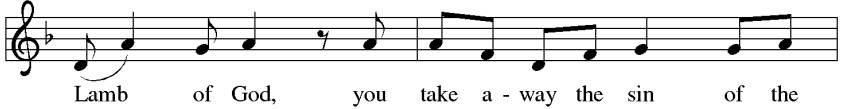
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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**

“There in God’s Garden”

Red Book #342

## **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**

“Let All Things Now Living”

Red Book #881

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Jude Eternal Throned in Splendor”

- Raymond Haan

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Maggie Babinka-Repic	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Amy Beiler	<b>Reader</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Crucifer</b>
Claudia van Driel	<b>Acolyte</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Karen Boltz	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow, Amelia O'Rourke, and Andrew O'Rourke	<b>Ushers</b>
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by  
Dan and Sue Morrow, in memory of Wil,  
and Jack and Sue Lehev, in memory of Tamm.*

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/29	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 5/2	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/4	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/5	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Confirmation Class** will meet today 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 next 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!

**Pastor Dollhopf will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination** this year and will be recognized at the synod assembly in June. The synod will honor Pr. Dollhopf with a \$500 gift to the seminary toward a new scholarship which will in time benefit seminarians entering public ministry. Members of First English who wish to send congratulatory greetings and/or scholarship contributions may direct them to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod; 1014 Perry Highway, Suite 200; Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Please note in the memo line "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Fund."

**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**

Leslie Easler; Jason Rahner; family of Jason Russell; 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 10:44-48**

*The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles*

**Psalm 98**

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (*Ps. 98:4*)

**1 John 5:1-6**

*The victory of faith*

**John 15:9-17**

*Christ the friend and lover*

## **ZOOM INFO**

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

**Password: 408299**

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