

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Something Which Is Known”

- G. Norbet, O.S.B. and  
M. D. Callahan, O.S.B.

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

- Arthur S. Sullivan and  
Ludvig M. Lindeman

“Christ ist erstanden”

- German carol, XII cent.

**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**

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Red Book #363

## **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. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave

their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 133** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his  
robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

**SECOND READING**    **1 John 1:1--2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>21</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>22</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 20:19-31**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Red Book #383

## **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.*

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Give us your Holy Spirit to renew our faith in your and our forgiveness of one another. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others to tend the soil and nurture plants in balance with creation's needs. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Support police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear all people when they for justice and peace for a world where all are fed and safe. We remember all those who work to relieve human suffering in war zones. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your people in this place cry out, O God, and you listen. We lift up before you those who have asked for our prayers this week, especially Karen, Carolyn, (and others)... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you...Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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**

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” - Tobias Volckmar

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

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

“A Medley of Easter Hymns” referencing *John 20*

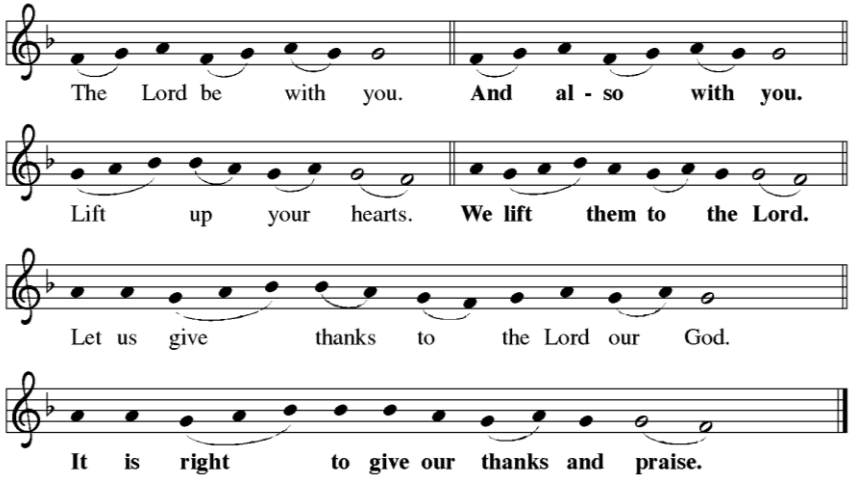
- BREMERTON, Friedrich Filitz
- TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson
- TORONTO, John W. Peterson
- BY GRACE MADE STRONG, Kurt Kaiser
- SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

*The congregation may stand.*

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

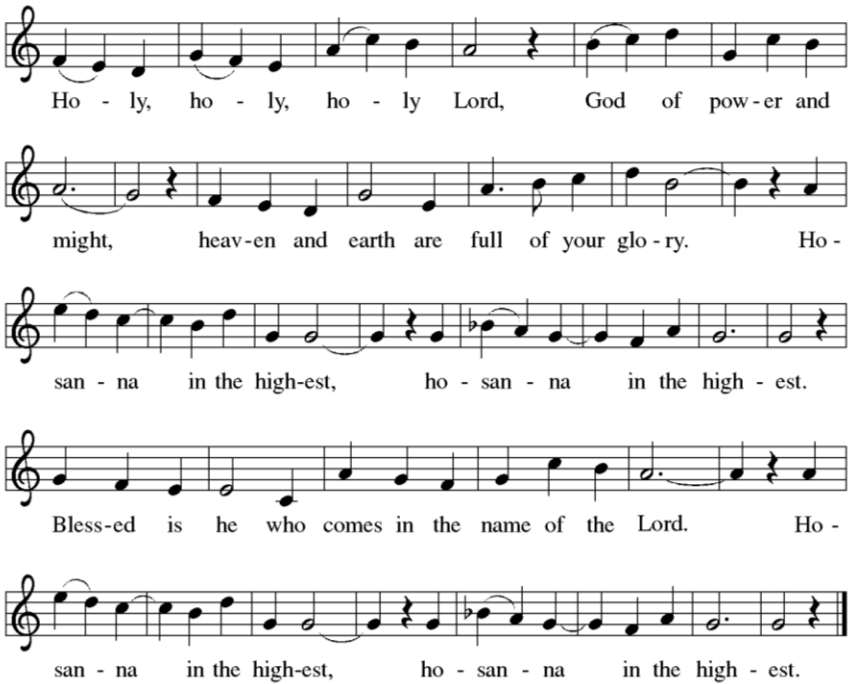
*led by the assisting minister*

## 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. 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

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

Red Book #379

## 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**

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Red Book #619

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!”

- Healy Willan

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Yvonne Thickey	<b>Reader</b>
Amelia O'Rourke	<b>Crucifer</b>
Reese Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Brandon Stein	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Bill and Judy Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	<b>Ushers</b>
Amy and Jack Beiler	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*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., 4/8	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 4/9	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 4/10	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs., 4/11	10:30 AM	Bible Study

	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/13	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	6 – 9 PM	Community Dinner Gala
Sun., 4/14	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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!

**Save the Date!** Our next Intergenerational Faith Formation Event will be on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> following the worship service.

## **PRAYERS**

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; 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 3:12-19**

*Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus*

### **Psalms 4**

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

### **1 John 3:1-7**

*The revealing of the children of God*

### **Luke 24:36b-48**

*Eating with the risen Christ*

**ZOOM INFO**

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

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

**Password: 408299**

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