

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Amen.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins, known and unknown, what we have done and what we have left undone. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

Red Book #556

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.

GLORIA

page 99 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15 (*read responsively*)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right

mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or

what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Reign of God Like Farmer’s Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er’s field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - ’ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is dling here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: DUNLAP’S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816
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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves,
and our world.

A brief silence.

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the
church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time
and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your
love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.
Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and
activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure
us of your constancy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are
victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate
Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your
people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful
God,
receive our prayer.

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises (*especially*). Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With gratitude, we remember the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love 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

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

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.... Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus our Savior has taught us, let us 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.

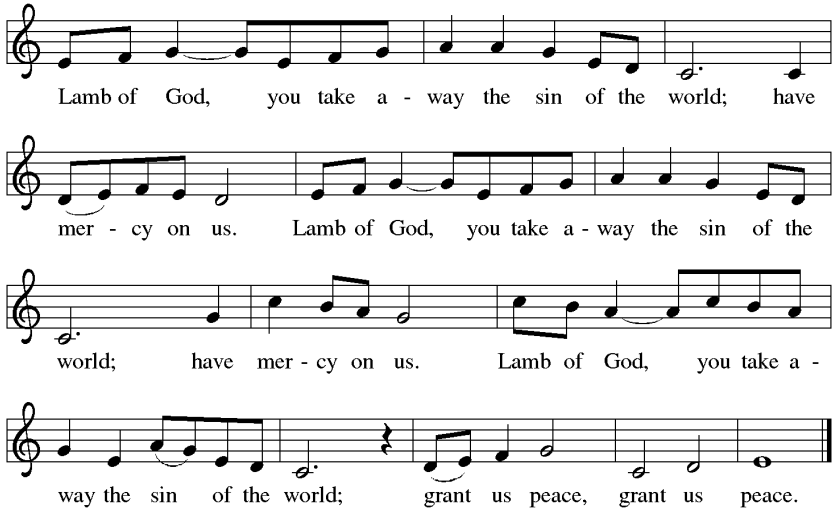
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

This Is Christ's Body

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with
mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,
bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960
Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

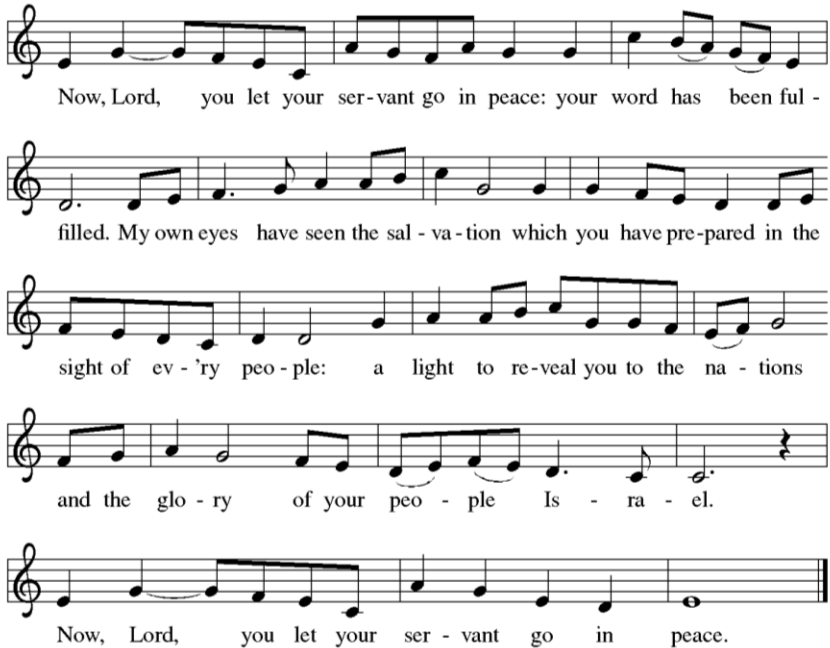
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

led by the assisting minister

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look with favor upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

Red Book #551

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Sue Morrow	Communion Assistant
Melody Kamerer	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Susan Farrell and Christiaan van Driel	Ushers
Karen and Bob Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Thelma Jean Cross in memory of her husband, Harold, and of her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Graff.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 6/17	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 6/20	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 6/22	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 6/23	10:15 AM	Worship at Trinity Lutheran
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: Submissions for the July newsletter are due in the church office by Thursday, June 20.

Next Sunday, June 23 is Cruise-a-Palooza in downtown Butler, and Main Street and the municipal parking lot next to First English will be closed. For worship that Sunday, we will join our friends at Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 Sunset Drive, at 10:15 a.m. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Liddy Barlow, executive minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania.

A Summer Music Schedule is posted in the Social Hall. Please consider signing your name on the schedule for one of the Sundays in **June, July, or August.** We look forward to hearing your voice, your instrument, and musical talent as an important part of our worship! Kevin Mathias and

Signe Mitchell are available if you have any questions.

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

Nissa Rappaport & family; Pr. Jim Dollhopf and family; Bruce Solomon; Tracy Gullickson; family and friends of Walter Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Job 38:1-11

The creator of earth and sea

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea. (*Ps. 107:29*)

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul's defense of his ministry

Mark 4:35-41

Christ calming the sea

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