

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Veni, Emmanuel”

- Alex Wyton

Variations on “Creator of the Stars of Night”

- David N. Johnson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, in your light we see light, and in your mercy, we can see the truth of our human condition. We come to you asking for your help and strength, that we may confess our sins, accept our weakness, and receive your forgiveness, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

*The congregation may kneel. A moment of silence is kept.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess to you our sin in thought, word, and deed, the things we have done, and the things we have failed to do. We have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. We have wounded your creation. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. Heal what we have broken and reconcile us to you, to one another, and to the earth and its creatures, that together we may live to the praise of your glory.**

**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

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  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

“Fling Wide the Door”

Red Book #259

**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**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O Lord; I  
sing my Sav - ior's praise! Great won - ders you have  
done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

1 My soul proclaims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
6 Sing glory to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,  
You looked upon my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
and praise the Power of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, 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

## Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 25: 1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day  
long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your goodness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING    1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”    *sts. 1 and 5*    Red Book #737

## GOSPEL    Luke 21:25-36

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know

that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

Red Book #246

## **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

*The congregation remains standing or takes another posture that is comfortable for prayer.*

*The cantor will lead through the refrain one time, then the congregation is invited to repeat. After each portion of the prayers, the assisting minister will bid, "We pray to you, O God." The congregation responds with the sung refrain.*

### In Silence We Wait

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "come to us; bring us your light." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957  
Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters  
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

*The congregation may stand.*

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness,  
your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming.

As we wait for you, give us good work to do.  
Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission.  
Help our congregation to deepen relationships  
with other Christians here in Butler.  
We especially lift up those congregations  
with whom we share the community dinner ministry.  
We pray:

*In silence we wait...*

God of the nations,  
your reign extends over all principalities and powers.  
Give leaders and all in authority  
hearts for justice and peace.  
Encourage efforts to enact policies  
that benefit the common good,  
and spare us from senseless controversies  
that absorb time and energy while people suffer.  
We pray:

*In silence we wait...*

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions.  
Be near to all who are changing jobs,  
Moving house,  
welcoming new family members,  
or facing difficult loss.  
In times of change,  
remind us of your steadfast love.  
We pray:

*In silence we wait.*

God of community, your Spirit holds us together:  
We lift up to you those for whom we have been asked to pray:  
Those who are ill...  
Those who are fearful...  
Those who are alone...  
We give you thanks for those faithful ones who have died...  
Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of  
abundant and eternal life. We pray:

*In silence we wait....*

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our  
hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



## THE MEAL

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may sit.*

### OFFERING

#### ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

- Georg Boehm

#### CHOIR ANTHEM

“We Wait for Thee”

- Victor C. Johnson

*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'r and  
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father,  
 through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
 whom you sent in this end of the ages  
 to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will...  
 Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;  
 gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
 fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
 that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;  
 through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
 with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
**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

### 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

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Red Book #245

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



A - ho - ra, Se - ñor, se - ñun tu pro - me - sa, pue - des de -  
At last, Lord, your word of prom - ise ful - fill - ing, you let your



jar a tu sier - vo ir - se en paz. Por - que mis  
ser - vant go forth in free - dom and peace. With my own



o - jos han vis - to a tu Sal - va - dor, a quien has  
eyes I have seen the sal - va - tion you have pre -



pre - sen - ta - do an - te to - dos los pue - blos: . . .  
pared . . . in the sight of all of the peo - ples: a



luz pa - ra a - lum - brar a las na - cio - nes, y  
light that will re - veal you to the na - tions, and the



glo - ria de tu pue - blo Is - ra - el.  
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*led by the assisting minister*

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“People, Look East”

Red Book #248

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE**

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

- J. G. Walther

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Jeanne Graff	<b>Reader</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Crucifer</b>
Shane Kamerer	<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>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry Hamil in loving memory of  
Dr. John Edward Crowder.*

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

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Mon., 12/2	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 12/5	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 12/7	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting (Downstairs)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 12/8	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor’s Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today we begin collecting donations for our annual Christmas Tree Drive** for the Children and Youth of Butler County. Please indicate your donation on the *Specials* line of your offering envelope, payable to First English Lutheran Church, or stop by the Christmas Tree to offer your donation. We will collect donations on December 1, 8, and 15. Thank you!

**If you would like to order Christmas flowers this year**, the sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall. The last day to order is this Sunday, Dec. 1.

**Pr. Kimberly will be out of the office** December 2-3 for a family funeral.

**Please sign up in the social hall** if you would like to have a printed copy of this year's Advent devotional.

**The Advent luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 15.** Main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish! Sign up in the social hall on the easel. Thank you!

**Along with the luncheon on December 15**, the intergenerational event planning team invites you to participate in a communal art project. There is some prep work involved! Please see Sharon Heist Miller, Holly Schubert, or Marj Rogner in the social hall following worship today for instructions on how to participate! No special art skills are required—just a willingness to make something cool happen!

**Hunters Sharing the Harvest** has donated more than 28,000 lbs. of venison to Butler County food providers, and your harvest or monetary donations to help with processing fees would be very welcome. Please visit [sharedeer.org](http://sharedeer.org) for more information.

## **PRAYERS**

Tom Lasky; Nelson Ng; Jack Goetz; Debbie & family; family of Alice Miller; Mackenzie Hunt; Tatum Scilia; Fred Miller; Kathy and Tom Frank; Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Jaime Rickert; family of Dorothy Croupe; family of Amy; Cindy Regis & all those who are affected by the hurricanes; Laura Warmbrod's mother; Rob; Jamie Maluk & family; David Fisher & family; Tommy, Jenny, & Aspen Zarnick; family of Richard Daller (brother of Betty Turner); Scott Tammaro; George Schaney; Stephen Wright; Steve; family of Beth Chambers; Don Eckels; Valerie Kurth; family of John Mileski; Cindy Halin; Mike Gibson; Dennis; Debra Williamson; Amy

Waldron; Evelyn Shaulis; Bill Brown; Ben & the Keeler family; Tracy Tucci; Iman; Aryl Bashline; Julie, Greg & family; family of Kenneth Mathias; Pr. Jim Dollhopf & family; Bruce Solomon; family & friends of Walter Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

**Luke 1:68-79**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

**Philippians 1:3-11**

*A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

**Luke 3:1-6**

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

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