

Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church as we celebrate Jesus' birth! First English's mission is to be a welcoming, worshiping community rooted in the city of Butler and making Christ known in words and deeds. Through worship and learning, prayer and feeding hungry people, we seek to honor the image of God in every person. If you have questions about our congregation or about who Lutheran Christians are and what we believe, please know that our pastor would love to talk with you!

The order for tonight's worship service is found in this worship folder. The congregation is invited to participate by praying the parts in bold print and by joining in the hymns, which are found in the red book in your pew.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" sts. 1-3 Red Book #283

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
 praise the name of the LORD.

²Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
 from this time forth forevermore.

Praise the Lord!

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
 let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations;
 God's glory above the heavens.

Praise the Lord!

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
 who sits enthroned on high,

⁶but stoops | to behold
the heavens and the earth?

Praise the Lord!

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.

Praise the Lord!

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.

Let us pray. Holy Jesus, to become our friend and to deliver us from the power of sin and death, you humbled yourself to be born among us and laid in a manger. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty, for now you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Red Book #289

The congregation may sit.

WORD

READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" sts. 1 and 2 Red Book #282

READING

The Christmas Gospel According to Luke, Part One

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" sts. 3 and 4 Red Book #282

READING: The Christmas Gospel according to Luke, Part Two

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CAROL

"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Red Book #290

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Having heard the message of peace brought by the angels, let us bring before God our prayers for the needs of the world.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are starving. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, give strength to all who suffer. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, who died to save us, forgive us our sins. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save us today and use us in your loving purpose to your glory.

Amen.

The presiding minister concludes:

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

PEACE

The peace of the Christ child be with you always!

And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

MEAL

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mystic Midnight"

- Leanne Heaton and Don Rasely

Linda Mathias, soprano

CAROL

"What Child is This?"

st. 3

Red Book #296

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank you for everything that you have given us. Help us use what we have gathered here to take care of others and serve you in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let's give our thanks to God!

It's right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, God,
For sending your Son, Jesus to be born like us,
We thank you that his bed was a manger,
Where animals found their food.
We thank you, O God, for feeding us.

We praise you, O God, for bread.

On the night, when he was betrayed,
He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."
Therefore, O God,
as we take this bread and cup,
we remember him in the manger;
we remember him on the cross;
we remember him rising from the dead;
we remember how he ascended into heaven.
We look forward to his coming again!
Come again, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
Upon this bread and wine,
That they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit lead us in love and service.
Make our city a house of bread, where no one is hungry.
Make our homes into mangers, filled with forgiveness and love.
Make us one with your people around the world and throughout
time.

Come Holy Spirit!
Come, Holy Spirit!

With Christ, in Christ, through Christ, we praise you, O God, in the
power and love of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as members of Christ's family, we pray as he taught us with
one heart and voice:

**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

Here in bread and wine is Christ for you, God's word made flesh.

The congregation may sit.

COMMUNION

You are invited to receive Holy Communion tonight. Lutherans believe that the body and blood of Christ are present with the bread and wine. If you can only receive either bread or wine (but not both) please know that you still receive the full communion.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Red Book #270

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

CANDLE-LIGHTING AT THE MANGER

HYMN DURING CANDLE-LIGHTING

“Away in a Manger”

Red Book #277

HYMN

“Silent Night”

Red Book #281

PRAYER

Starmaker God, with bread and wine you bless us into light and love. Bring us to the light of Jesus all of our nights and days, and make his kindness shine through us. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

sts. 1 and 4

Red Book #267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Tucker Sequite	Acolytes
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Karen and Bob Domanski	Ushers
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS and POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by: Joan Giese, Jessie Kamerer, George Schaney, Larry Hamil, Myrna Hamil, Marilyn Shoup, Brandi Stein, Merry Miller, Signe Mitchell, Debbie Gallagher, Sandy Lefebvre, and Tracy Gullickson

CHRISTMAS TREE contributions made by:

Pat & Joe Zupancic, Bob & Karen Domanski, Ted & Joan Giese, Stan & Jeanne Graff, Sandy Lefebvre, Josh & Jessie Kamerer, Marilyn Shoup, Signe Mitchell, Larry Hamil, Merab Drennan, Ben Hosler, Laura & Brent Warmbrod, Brenda Ihlenfeld, Danna Drescher, Dylan Szezurek, Elaine Cavanaugh, Barb Wiefling, Jack & Jolene Pelgrin, Jim & Jeanette Cunningham, Larry & Helen Christy, Grace Shields, Myrna Hamil, Rose Cooper, Dennis & Heidi Herritt, Marj Rogner, Kevin & Linda Mathias

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS to support First English's ministry may be made at the offering plates or online at www.firstenglishbutler.org.

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The prayers of intercession and the prayer of the day are adapted from The Promise of His Glory: For the Season from All Saints to Candlemas and used in accordance with their instructions for liturgical texts for local use.

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