

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Advent” - Camil Van Hulse
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” - Paul Manz
“God, Who Madest Earth and Heaven” - J. S. Bach / Johann G. Walther

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

the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

sts. 1, 5, 6, 7

Red Book #257

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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**Micah 5:2-5a**

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM**Luke 1:46b-55**

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown” *all stanzas* Red Book #737

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

Red Book #266

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, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

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

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

“Incarnation Suite –
Cantilena”

- Joel Martinson

CHOIR ANTHEM

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

- Rusty Edwards, 1963

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

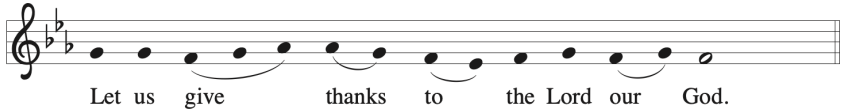
GREAT THANKSGIVING



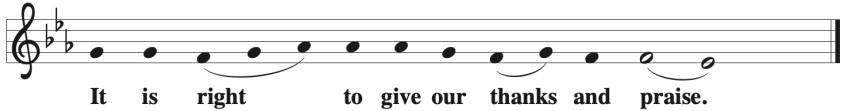
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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

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

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Red Book #265

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 - gún 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

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Red Book #263

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in F minor”

- Charles Burney

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Assisting Minister
Sue Morrow	Communion Assistant
Susan Farrell	Reader
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Gracie Love	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*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., 12/23	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 12/24		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
	4:30 PM	Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service
	9:00 PM	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Wed., 12/25		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Thurs., 12/26		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 12/28	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting (Downstairs)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 12/29	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office will be closed on December 24, 25 and 26.

Pr. Kimberly will be on vacation December 26 through January 3. In case of a pastoral emergency, contact Pr. Joel Benson at Trinity Lutheran Church at 724-287-1977.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:30 PM - FAMILY WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
9:00 PM - WORSHIP WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

Join us in person or online:
241 North Main St. Butler, PA 16001
firstenglishbutler.org

PRAYERS

Tim Reamer; Shirley Mould; 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

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people

Psalm 148

The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (*Ps. 148:13*)

Colossians 3:12-17

Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor

*Liturgical portions of today's service are reprinted with permission under Augsburg
Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028762.*

*One License Licensing Permission: Reprinted/ Podcast/ Streamed with permission under
One License #A-734698. All Rights Reserved.*