

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesu, redemptor omnium”

- Murray C. Bradshaw

“The First Nowell”

- Hugo Gehrke, *arr.*

“The Hills of Bethlehem”

- Todd Kendall

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

Red Book #304

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.

GLORIA



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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**Isaiah 43: 1-7**

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

- ¹ But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 *read responsively*

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;**

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**⁶the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests
bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”

Purple Book #916

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call us by name and form us for service. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Bring many this to receive the sacrament at our font and help us to support and connect with those who seek this gift. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your voice sounds over the waters, calling forth life. Lead us to heed your voice, to recognize water as your creation and to care for it and all that it sustains. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery (*especially*). Go one day at a time with those who are in recovery, and support all those who are affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Help each person to know that they are beloved, whatever their circumstances. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
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

“All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”

- Paul Manz

CHOIR ANTHEM

When John Baptized by Jordan’s River

Tune: RENDEZ A DIEU

Text: Timothy Dudley Smith, b. 1926

1. When John baptized by Jordan’s river in faith and hope the people came,

That John and Jordan might deliver their troubled souls from sin and shame.

They came to seek a new beginning, the human spirit's ageless quest, Repentance, and an end of sinning, renouncing ev'ry wrong confessed.

2. There as the Lord, baptized and praying, rose from the stream, the sinless one,

A voice was heard from heaven saying, "This is my own beloved Son." There as the Father's word was spoken, not in pow'r of wind and flame, But of His love and peace the token, seen as a dove, the Spirit came.

3. O Son of Man, our nature sharing, in whose obedience all are blest, Savior, our sins and sorrows bearing, hear us and grant us this request: Daily to grow, by grace defended, filled with the Spirit from above; In Christ baptized, beloved, befriended, children of God in peace and love.

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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy... *the presiding minister continues giving thanks*

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...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be all honor and glory in your
 holy church, 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

“Wade in the Water”

Red Book #459

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

SENDING HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

Red Book #677

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

- Kaspar Othmayr and
Johann Pachelbel

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Yvonne Thickey	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Shane Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Bob and Karen Domanski; Brenden Stevens	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Judy Vilcheck.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 1/13	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 1/14	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 1/15	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick
Thurs., 1/16	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 1/18	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting (Downstairs)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 1/19	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Pastor's Office)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Intergenerational Event
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports are due to Caitlyn in the office by Tuesday, January 14. They will be available for congregational review next Sunday, January 19.

The monthly intergenerational event will take place on Sunday, January 19 following worship.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held after the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 26.

Save the date: Bishop Kurt Kusserow will visit First English on Sunday, February 23. More details to follow.

PRAYERS

Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Randy & Gigi Kosier; Bruce Solomon; 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; 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 Tammario; 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; family & friends of Walter Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you

Psalms 36:5-10

We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit

John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana

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