

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

- Flor Peeters

“I Will Sing My Maker’s Praises”

- Johann F. Doles

“Choral”

- Joseph Jongen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

The congregation may kneel or adopt another posture appropriate for confession. A moment of silence is kept.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our sin and release us from its grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways, for the sake of your holy name. 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 ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“In His Temple, Now Behold Him”

Red Book #417

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 and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, 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**Malachi 3:1-4**

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84

read responsively

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord of hosts!

**² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

**⁴ Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of
springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**⁸ Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

⁹ Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.

**¹⁰ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with
integrity.

**¹² O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

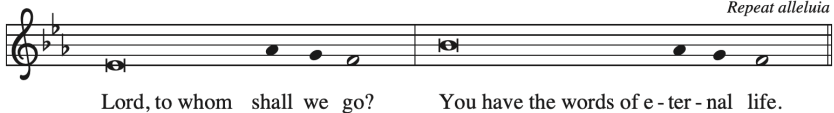
Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Glory to you, O Lord.

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's

Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,

they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Red Book #490

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.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

God of grace,

The congregation responds:

Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes:

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

“Toccata per l’Elevazione”

- Girolamo Frescobaldi

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Love Grows Here”

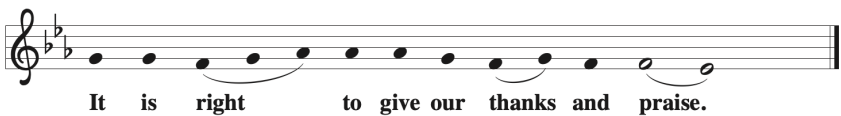
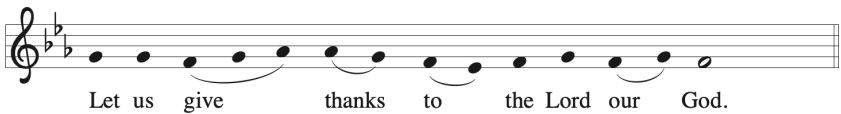
- Don Besig

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”

Red Book #313

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

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Red Book #914

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Wie schön leuchtet”

- Raymond Haan

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| The Rev. Kimberly van Driel | Presiding Minister |
| Sharon Heist Miller | Assisting Minister |
| Linda Mathias | Communion Assistant |
| Chuck McMichael | Reader |
| Claudia van Driel | Crucifer |
| Alex Kamerer | Acolyte |
| Signe Mitchell | Organist |
| Harry Cunningham | Sr. Choir Director |
| Jim Cunningham | AV Assisting Minister |
| Grace Love | PowerPoint Minister |
| Bill and Judy Vilcheck | 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., 2/3 | 5:00 PM | Community Dinner |
| | 8:00 PM | NA Meeting (Social Hall) |
| Thurs., 2/6 | 10:30 AM | Bible Study (Social Hall) |
| | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sat., 2/8 | 10:30 AM | ACA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| | 12:00 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sun., 2/9 | 9:00 AM | Bible Study (Pastor's Office) |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship |
| | 5:30 PM | AA Meeting (Downstairs) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If Butler Area School District is closed, delayed, or doing flexible instruction, bible study and any other meetings will be cancelled.

Bishop Kurt Kusserow will visit First English on Sunday, February 23.
A potluck meal and conversation will follow the worship service. Please
sign up in the social hall!



Lutheran Disaster Response: LA Wildfires

Multiple wildfires have broken out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life.

Lutheran Disaster Response will be there for the rebuilding ahead. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to wildfires and other disasters, wherever and whenever they strike. Learn more at ELCA.org/wildfires.



Scan the QR code to give today.

By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as wildfires and to remain for as long as the recovery takes.



Checks can be mailed to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "U.S. Wildfires" on the memo line.

PRAYERS

The family of Walter Fitzpatrick; Hannah Love; Jake Stevens; Larry Hamil; Kathy & Tom Frank; Gerry and John O'Rourke; family of Thomas Olson; 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; 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; 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; Pam Patterson; Carol Johnson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (*Ps. 138:2*)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am the least of the apostles

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

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