

**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.*

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;
- <sup>6</sup> 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—
- <sup>7</sup> 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*

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

**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

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

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The 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!"

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O 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.*

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

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> 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 in Holy Baptism. Help us to trust your baptismal promise in every circumstance of our lives. Bring many this to receive the sacrament at our font and help us to support and connect with them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God, as fires rage and consume the land, give to the people of Los Angeles all that you see that they need. Give comfort to the grieving and endurance to those who are displaced. Protect firefighters and all who work to preserve life. Bless the work of relief workers, and give to all people the faith to trust that even dust will live by your breath. 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. 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. Be with those who have asked for our prayers this week. . . . 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. Today, especially, we remember Karen Lee Knepp and all who grieve her. 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.

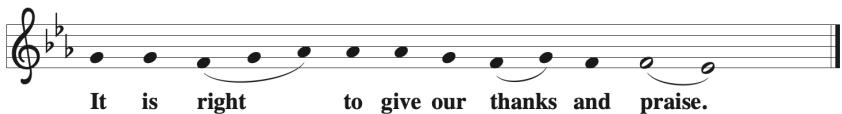
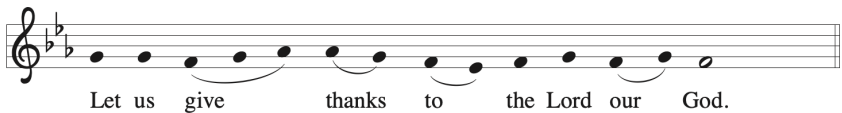
3. O Son of Man, our nature sharing, in whose obedience all are blest,  
Savior, our sins and sorrows bearing, hear us and grant us this request:  
Daily to grow, by grace defended, filled with the Spirit from above;  
In Christ baptized, beloved, befriended, children of God in peace and love.

*The congregation may stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

*led by the assisting minister*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.**

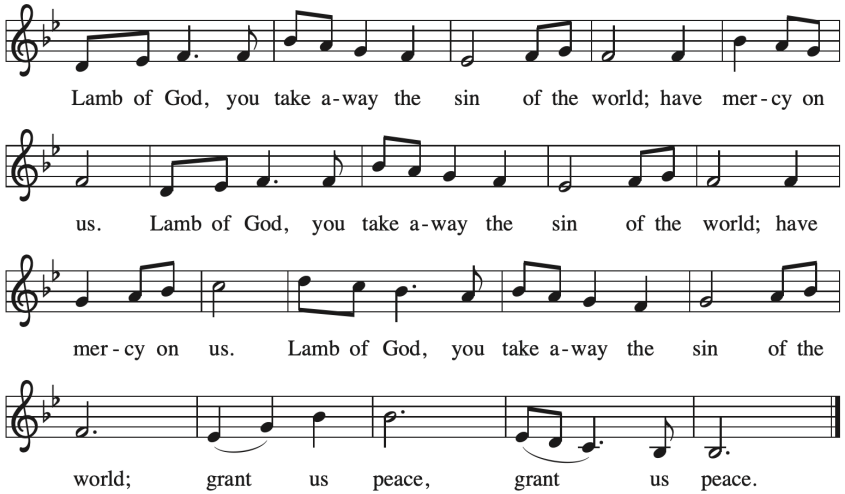
**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**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	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Yvonne Thickey	<b>Reader</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<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>
Bob and Karen Domanski; Brenden 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 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.



## 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](https://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.



## PRAYERS

Gerry O'Rourke; 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 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; 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*

**Psalm 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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