

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

- Johann G. Walther

“Intermezzo”

- Christopher Morris

Ritournello on “Liebster Jesu, Wir sind Her”

- Aaron David Miller

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

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Red Book #705

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.

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: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 *read responsively*

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**² Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**⁴ It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 6:17-26

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Canticle of the Turning”

Red Book #723

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.

For all Christian people, that they may align their lives to your blessing and seek out solidarity with those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or hated for your Son's sake. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For people trapped in conflict across the world, especially for those in Gaza, Lebanon, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, and elsewhere, that they would receive justice and peace. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who are experiencing homelessness or who are without heat in their homes, that they would find safety in the cold week to come. God of grace, **Hear our prayer**

For those who suddenly lose their jobs, that they would be treated with respect and dignity and that they find means to support themselves and their families. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who need our prayers this week:
For those who suffer suicidal desperation...
For those who have a crisis of faith...
For those who have asked for our prayers....
God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have gone before us in the faith, we give you thanks. Teach us to rest in the promise of resurrection. God of grace, **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

“Lord Jesus we give thanks to Thee”

- J. S. Bach

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Blessed Is the Man”

- Arcangelo Corelli

- Benjamin J. Stone, *arr.*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

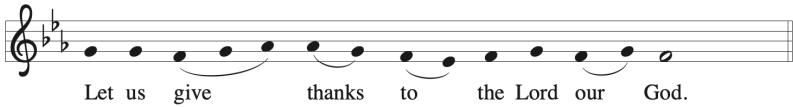
GREAT THANKSGIVING



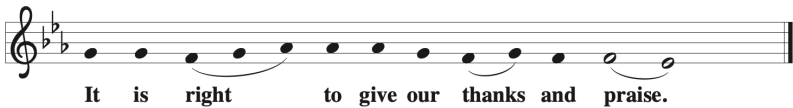
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

Red Book #479

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

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

Red Book #449

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Vater unser im Himmelreich”

- Georg Philipp Telemann

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Assisting Minister
Jim Cunningham	Communion Assistant
Tracy Gullickson	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Emily Stein	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Bob and Karen Domanski; Brenden Stevens	Ushers
Susan Farrell and Marilyn Shoup	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 an intergenerational event following the worship service.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 2/17	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 2/20	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 2/22	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting (Downstairs)

	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 2/23		No Bible Study on Feb. 23
	10:00 AM	Worship
		Bishop Kusserow Visit & Lunch
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comfort Food for the Spirit Intergenerational Event Series continues today following worship. Stay for donuts and a zany dive into what it means to live by God’s “grace.”

Bishop Kurt Kusserow will visit First English next Sunday, February 23. A potluck meal and conversation will follow the worship service. Plan to stay and plan to bring a dish.

Please Join Us
Ash Wednesday - March 5th

Brief Spoken Service
with the Imposition of Ashes
at 12:15 pm

Service of Holy Communion
with the Imposition of Ashes
at 7:30 pm

First English Lutheran Church
241 N. Main St. Butler, PA 16001
www.FirstEnglishButler.org



2024 Financial Statements are available in the social hall for pickup.
Happy tax filing!

Submissions for the March newsletter are due to Caitlyn in the church office by Friday, February 21.

PRAYERS

Peter Osborne; Eric Love; Nancy & Dave McDermitt; family of Walter Fitzpatrick; family of Bernhard Klann; Hannah Love; Larry Hamil; Jake Stevens; 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; 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

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. *(Ps. 37:11)*

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The mystery of the resurrection of the body

Luke 6:27-38

Love your enemies

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