

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 30, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**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.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

# GATHERING HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Red Book #588

## GREETING

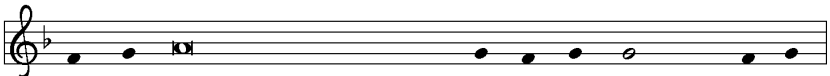
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



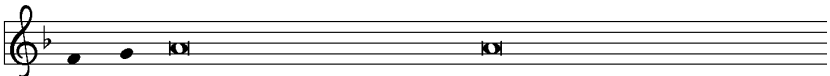
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



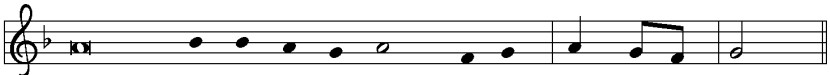
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



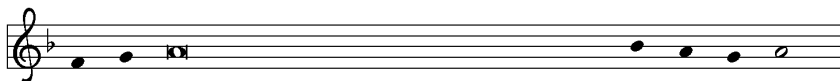
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



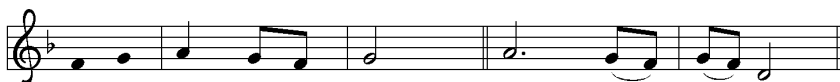
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the

produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 32** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**<sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of  
trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near  
you."

**<sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

### LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

### GOSPEL      Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen

to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

*The congregation may sit.*

## **SERMON**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Amazing Grace”

Red Book #779

## **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**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

*After each petition, the assisting minister bids:*

God, in your mercy.

*The congregation responds:*

**Receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes:*

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**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

*The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.*

### CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake”

- James H. Rogers

*The congregation may stand.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

*led by the assisting minister*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

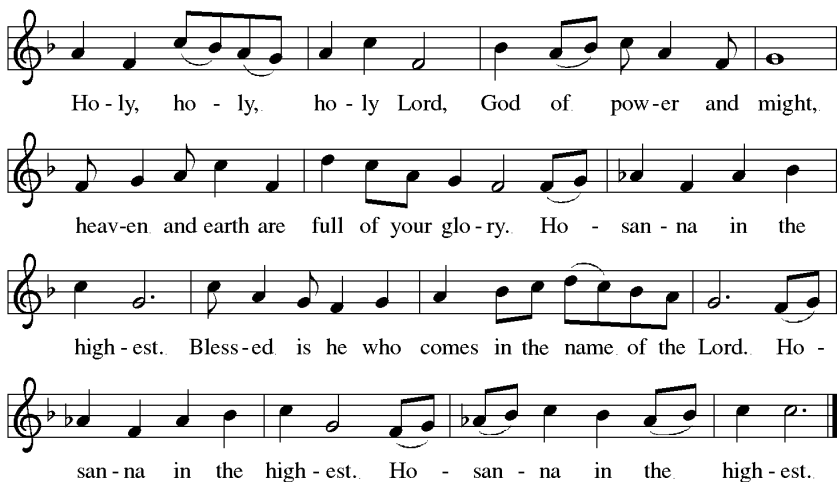
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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-er and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him your hearts with thanksgiving.

## 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.

*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**

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

Red Book #811

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **SONG AFTER COMMUNION**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*led by the assisting minister*

## **THE SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, Son + Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

Red Book #763

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Lois Trimbur	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Chuck McMichael	<b>Reader</b>
Amelia O'Rourke	<b>Crucifer</b>
Tucker Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Bryan Helsel	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	<b>Ushers</b>
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*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., 3/31	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 4/2	11 AM - 1 PM	Sanctuary Open for Quiet Prayer
	12:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (Trinity)
Thurs., 4/3	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/5	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
	1:30 PM	Council Clean-Up
Sun., 4/6	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We mourn with the family of Karen Cranmer**, who died in resurrection hope on March 26. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

**If you would like to order Easter flowers**, today is the last day to sign up in the social hall or contact the church office.

**Another communal artwork** is planned for Easter! Holly Schubert and Sharon Heist Miller will be available in the social hall following worship to invite you to participate in a mystery collage. Participants will take a piece of the puzzle home to collage in paint-by-numbers style. Pieces need to be returned to church on Sunday, April 13, for assembly at coffee hour on Easter.

**We need volunteers** for the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on April 17. If you would like to make soup or help with the set-up and/or clean-up, please sign up in the social hall.

**If you plan to bring flowers** for the cross on Easter Sunday, please let us know by signing up in the social hall.

### **Opportunities for Prayer and Worship during Lent**

Midweek Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 Sunset Dr.,  
on Wednesdays at Noon

#### ***Turning Toward God's Abundance***

*This series of worship services will focus on five different aspects of God's generous grace.*

*April 2: Forgiveness*

*April 9: Love*

#### ***Prayer Station in the Sanctuary***

Are you following the "Christ Collides" Lent at Home Devotion? We will have a prayer station at First English that follows along with that devotion. Located in the front of the sanctuary by the sacristy door, the prayer station will be accessible on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (enter the church by the office door). Or, if you are in the building any other time of the week (for community dinner on Mondays or choir on Thursdays), feel free to stop by and pray.

## **PRAYERS**

Family of Karen Cranmer; Norman Butler; family of John Banks; Keith Graff; Jim Cunningham; Signe Mitchell; Cindy Regis; Marsh Miller; Paul &

Mary; Becky Smith; 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; 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 Keelser 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 43:16-21**

*The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*

#### **Psalm 126**

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

#### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

*To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*

#### **John 12:1-8**

*Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

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