

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

- Kevin Hildebrand

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

- Patricia Lou Harris

“Prelude”

- J. K. F. Fischer

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

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

Red Book #319

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. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshippers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling

for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

read responsively

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

² **you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰ **no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**16 With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 4:1-13**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested”

Purple Book #922

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

“Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling” - Charles Callahan

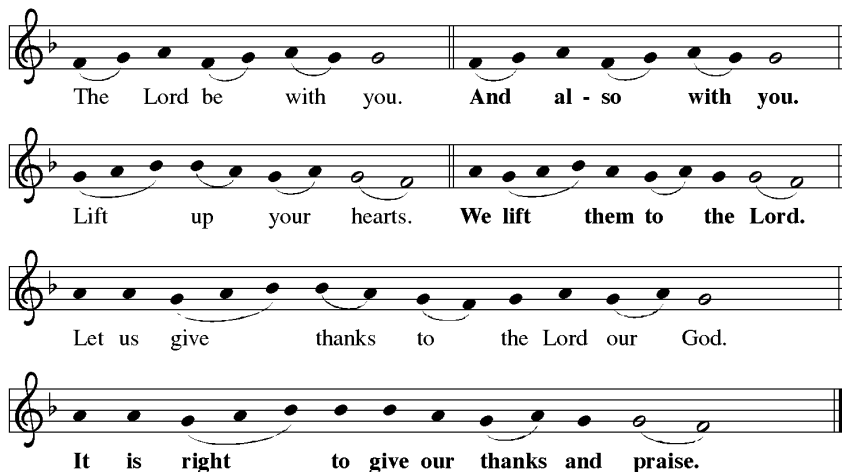
The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



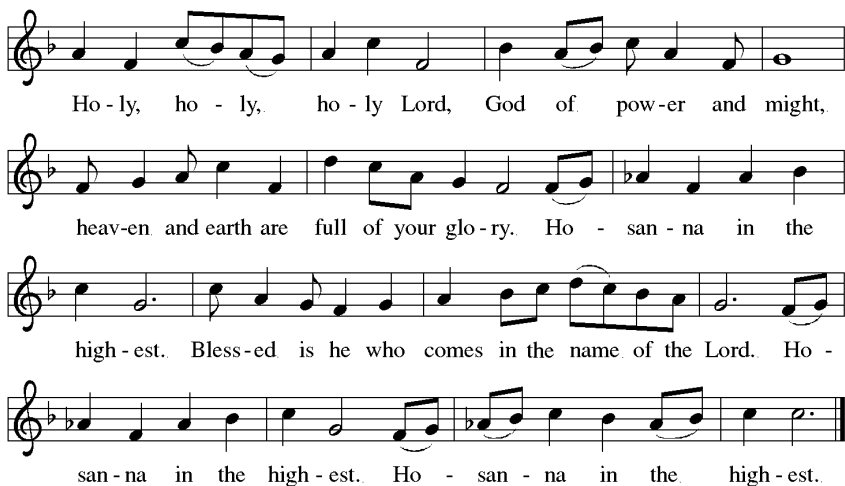
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Red Book #808

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

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Red Book #325

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

- Georg Boltze

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Assisting Minister
Sue Morrow	Communion Assistant
Amy Beiler	Reader
Sandy Lefebvre	Crucifer
Claudia van Driel	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	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., 3/10	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 3/11	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., 3/12	8:00 AM	Health Clinic Meeting (Social Hall)
	9:30 AM	Hymn Pick (Pastor's Office)
	12:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (Trinity)
	11 AM - 1 PM	Sanctuary Open for Quiet Prayer
Thurs., 3/13		No Bible Study
	5:30 PM	Baptism (Sanctuary)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 3/15	10:30 AM	ACA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 3/16	9:00 AM	Bible Study

	10:00 AM	Worship
	after worship	Congregational Meeting
	after meeting	Intergenerational Event
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was a great success!

Many thanks and blessings to all, Roxanne Glagola

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.

March 12: Faithfulness

March 19: Mercy

March 26: Compassion

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.

The Thursday morning women's bible study is cancelled for Thursday, March 13.

Next Sunday, March 16, we will have a special congregational meeting following the morning worship service to approve a contract to restore the grand piano.

After the meeting next Sunday, we will have our March Intergenerational Event: Comfort Food for the Spirit – Living in God's Grace. Hope to see you there!

If you would like to order Easter flowers, please sign up in the social hall or contact the church office by Sunday, March 30.

The Community Meal Gala committee is preparing for our art show weekend on March 29 & 30. We will have a variety of raffle baskets and invite you or your group to provide a basket for our raffle. Personal or business sponsorships are also welcome. If you are interested in providing a basket, making cookies for the cookie table, volunteering at the events, or purchasing tickets for the gala, please contact Tracy (724) 712-4084 or Mary Ann (724) 822-3389.

PRAYERS

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 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 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

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