

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

- Robert J. Powell

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

- Robert A. Hobby

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound”

- Hobby

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GATHERING HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Red Book #361

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

page 120 in the front of the red book

THIS IS THE FEAST

page 122 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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 Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:14-29

read responsively

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

**²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**²⁵Hosanna! O Lord, save us
We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

**²⁷The Lord is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

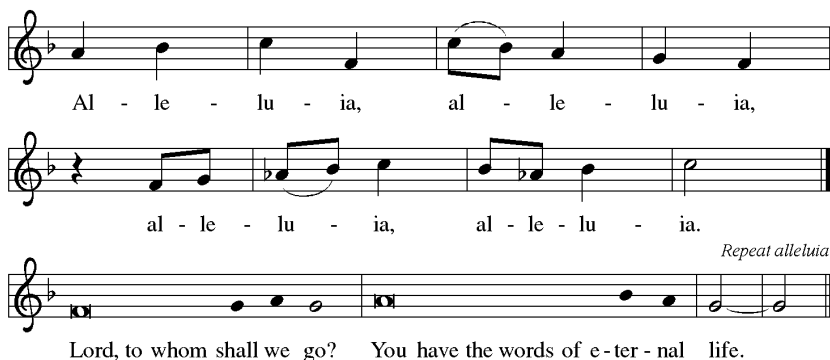
⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among

them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"That Easter Day with Joy was Bright"

Red Book #384

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS *by Larry and Mollie Hibbs*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore contaminated habitats make us mindful of the impact of our daily lives on the well-being of creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up thoughtful leaders committed to engaging complex challenges. We remember today especially all those who work in the federal government, those who strive for peace in war-torn areas, and those who attend to systems of finance and economic security.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort those who suffer in any way:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across the differences that so often divide us. Free us from stereotyping others in ways that lead to greater injustice.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After sharing the peace, the congregation may sit.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“This Joyful Eastertide”

- Mark Sedio

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“This Joyful Easter-tide”

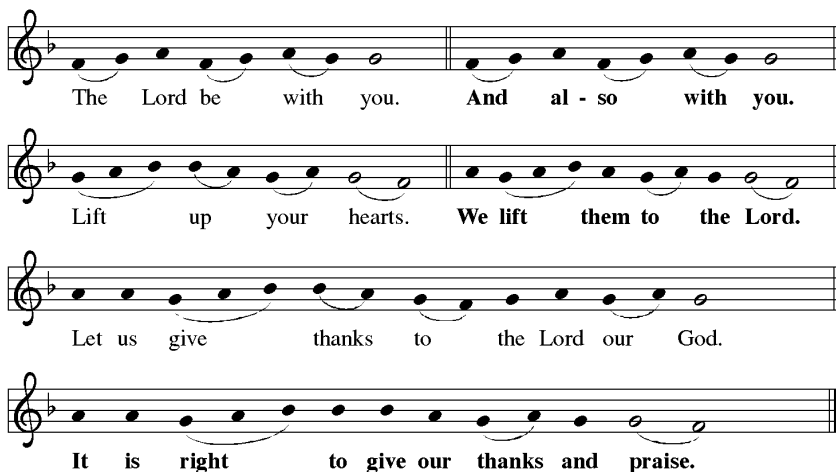
- 17th century Dutch melody

The congregation may stand.

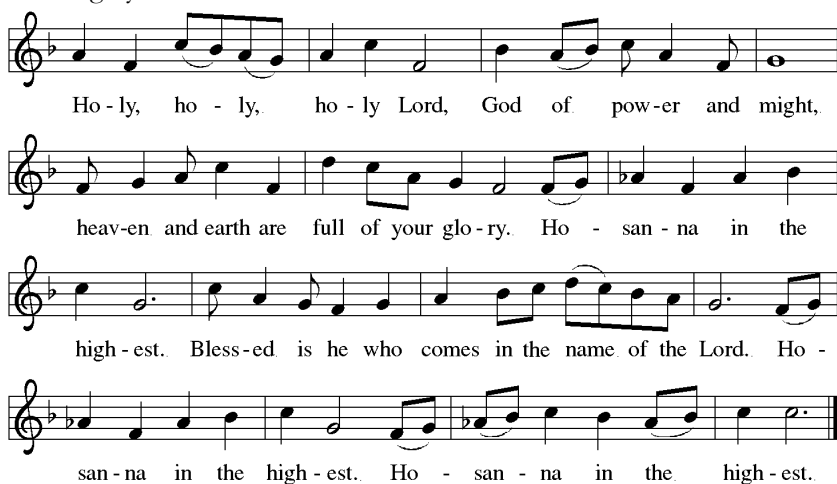
OFFERING PRAYER

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:



You are indeed holy, O Lord our God...

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

Make us to be your holy kingdom, your royal priesthood,

worshiping and serving you with praise and thanksgiving

as we wait for the glorious coming of Christ, the Alpha and Omega.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, 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.

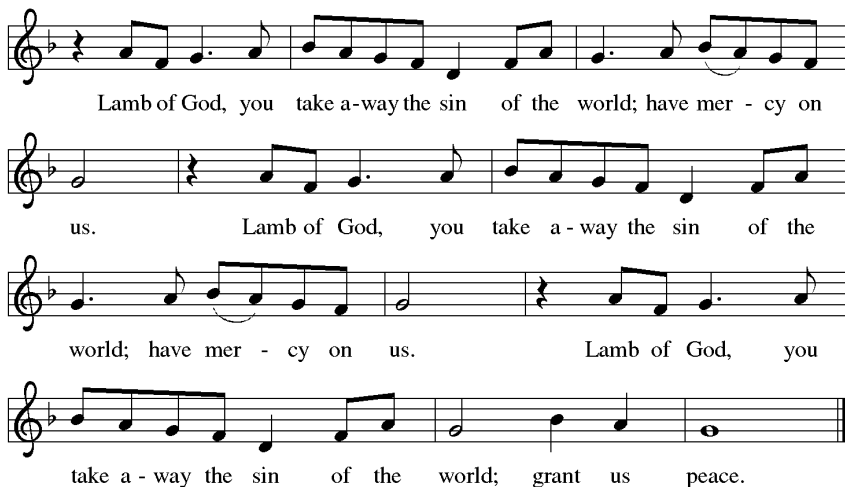
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Come to this banquet of forgiveness and new life!

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

“Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded”

Purple Book #933

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Red Book #365

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

- Michael Burkhardt

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sue Morrow	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Larry Hamil	Reader
Shane Kameron	Acolyte
John Thickey	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Gracie Love	PowerPoint Minister
Larry Christy and Jack Rudzki	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Larry and Mollie Hibbs
in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.*

All are welcome to join us for coffee hour social hall after worship today.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/28	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 5/1	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/3	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/4	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate with Mollie and Larry Hibbs as they renew their wedding

vows in worship today on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. They invite us to join them at coffee hour for cake and fellowship.

We welcome John Thickey to the organ bench today. Thank you, John, for sharing your gifts with us as Signe Mitchell recuperates!

The prayer list will be renewed on Sunday, May 4. If you would like to keep someone on the prayer list, please contact the church office officefelc@zoominternet.net by Thursday, May 1.

Caitlyn Morgan, our office manager, is moving on to a full-time position after five and a half years of faithful service at First English. At social hour next Sunday, May 4, we'll have the opportunity to say goodbye and thank her for her time with us.

PRAYERS

Janie Wetzel; Joan Giese; DJ Sampson; Nicole Waltrip; Justine Brown; Darrell Mueller; Bruce Solomon & family; Norman Butler; Keith Graff; Signe Mitchell; Cindy Regis; Marsh Miller; Paul & Mary; Becky Smith; Peter Osborne; Eric Love; Nancy & Dave McDermitt; Hannah Love; Kathy & Tom Frank; Gerry and John O'Rourke; Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Randy & Gigi Kosier; Tim Reamer; Shirley Mould; Nelson Ng; Jack Goetz; Debbie & family; Mackenzie Hunt; Tatum Scilia; Fred Miller; Jaime Rickert; Jamie Maluk & family; David Fisher & family; Tommy, Jenny, & Aspen Zarnick; Scott Tammara; George Schaney; Stephen Wright; Don Eckels; Valerie Kurth; Cindy Halin; Mike Gibson; Debra Williamson; Amy Waldron; Evelyn Shaulis; Bill Brown; Ben & the Keeler family; Tracy Tucci; Aryl Bashline; Julie, Greg & family; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Carol Johnson; Karen Knepp; Lida Mason; Carol Chamberlain; Betty Thomas; C. J. Williams; Leslie Easler; Laine Repic; Family of Amy; Kirsten Schaney Chambers; Angela Carlson; Eli and Mary Love

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching

Psalms 30

You have turned my wailing into dancing. (*Ps. 30:11*)

Revelation 5:11-14

The song of the living creatures to the Lamb

John 21:1-19

Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias

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