

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“A Multitude Comes from the East and the West” -G. Winston Cassler
“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won!” - J.S. Bach
“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks” - Donald Fishel

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“We Are Marching in the Light” Red Book #866

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. Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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

Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67 *read responsively*

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the
na- | tions on earth.

⁵ Let the peoples | praise you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰ And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³ Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Red Book #804

HOLY BAPTISM OF AMELIA MARIE CLINE

page 227 in the front of the red book

BAPTISMAL HYMN

Red Book #456

“Baptized in Water”

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.

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

God of grace,

The congregation responds:

Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes:

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

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus” - Charles Callahan

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Shalom”

-Dan Forrest

(Robin Treybig, *cellist* and Signe Michell, *keyboardist*)

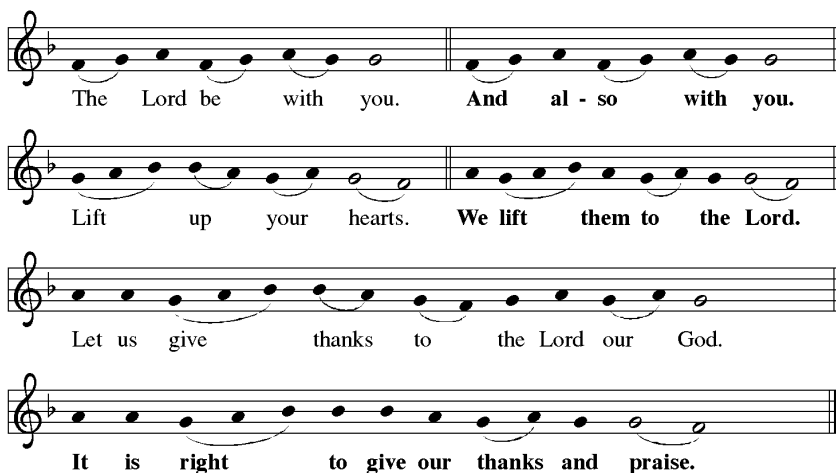
During the anthem, the ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



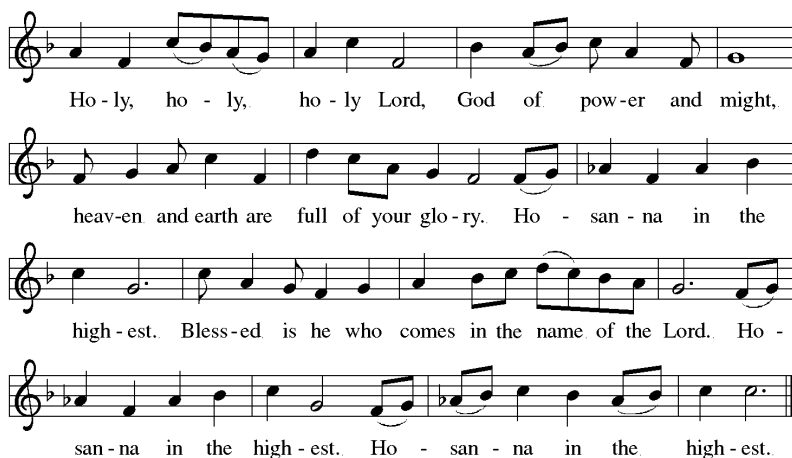
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

All holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands!...(the prayers continue)

Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

God of love, we commemorate the love of Jesus whom death could not bind, but who rose from the grave, and sits exalted in glory on the throne of creation...*(the prayers continue)*

Then, at last, will all creation be one and all divisions healed;
And we shall sing your praise, united forever in the name of Jesus Christ through whom, with whom, in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

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 resurrection 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

“Beloved, God’s Chosen”

Red Book #648

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

May God who has brought us from death to life fill us with great joy.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Red Book #815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“When Peace, Like a River”

-Philip P. Bliss

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Rev. Kimberly van Driel | Presiding Minister |
| Lois Trimbur | Assisting Minister |
| Sharon Heist Miller | Communion Assistant |
| Chuck McMichael | Reader |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Lois Trimbur | Crucifer |
| Tucker Sequite | Acolyte |
| Kevin Mathias | Organist |
| Harry Cunningham | Choir Director |
| Jim Cunningham | AV Assisting Minister |
| Joan Giese | PowerPoint Minister |
| Bob and Karen Domanski; Brenden Stevens | Ushers |
| Jim and Jeanette Cunningham | Counters |
| Roxanne Glagola | Altar Guild |

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Judy Vilcheck 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., 5/26 | 5:00 PM | NO Community Dinner |
| | 8:00 PM | NA Meeting (Social Hall) |
| Thurs., 5/29 | 10:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sat., 5/31 | 12:00 PM | NA Meeting (Downstairs) |
| Sun., 6/1 | 9:00 AM | Bible Study (Social Hall) |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship |
| | 5:30 PM | AA Meeting (Downstairs) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Amelia Marie Cline receives the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Amelia is the daughter of Josh and Sydney Cline and the big sister to Finley Cline. Her sponsor is Megan Takats. Welcome, Amelia, to God's family!

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please add them to the list on the bulletin board in the social hall or contact the church office
officefelc@zoominternet.net.

Summer office hours will begin in June.

Monday: 8am to 11am (remote)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9:30am to 2pm (in office)

Friday: 8am to 1pm (in office)

BRING A POTTED RED FLOWER

As we celebrate Pentecost, we invite you to bring a potted red flower for the chance to add a touch of beauty to our service. Let's make it a floral celebration together!

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

PRAYERS

Family of John Beatty; Janie Wetzel; Joan Giese; DJ Sampson; Nicole Waltrip; Justine Brown; Darrell Mueller; Bruce Solomon & family; Keith Graff; Signe Mitchell; Cindy Regis; Marsh Miller; Hannah Love; Gerry and John O'Rourke; Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Shirley Mould; Nelson Ng; Valerie Kurth; Sue Henry; Tad Sellers; Aryl Bashline, Keeler Family

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 16:16-34

While in prison, Paul speaks to the jailer, who is then baptized

Psalms 97

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Blessed are those who wash their robes

John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the disciples will be one and abide in his love

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