

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Jesus Christ, Our Savior, Who Overcame Death” - F.W. Zachau
“Earth, Earth, Awake!” - Sally Ann Morris
“Lord of the Dance” - Russell Schulz-Widmar

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” Red Book #363

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. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6 [7-20]

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking

some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30 *read responsively*

¹ I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the Lord, all you faithful;
give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵ God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt secure, I said,
“I shall never be disturbed.**

⁷ You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to you, O Lord;
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

⁹ “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ **Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper.”**

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SECOND READING **Revelation 5:11-14**

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

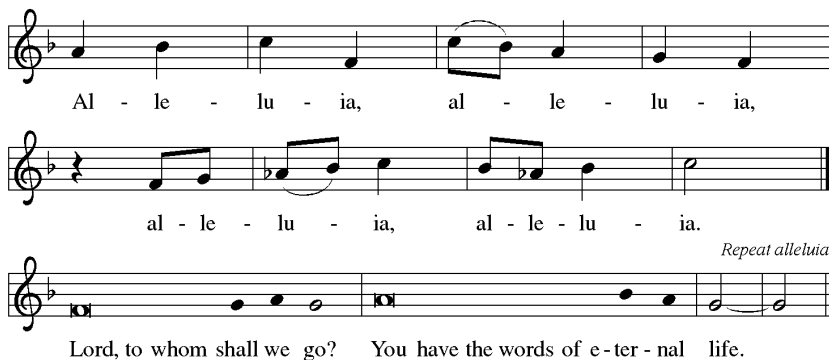
¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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 21:1-19

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Who Once Were Dead”

Red Book #495

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.

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

“Elévation”

- Amédée de Vallombrosa

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“We Sing the Boundless Praise of Him”

- Harry D. Loes, 1957

(Rev. 5:12)

1. We sing the boundless praise of Him who reigns on high,
And of His glorious Son, the Lamb who brought salvation nigh.
Thine everlasting power and majesty we sing,
But with our songs of sov'reign grace we'll make heaven's arches ring.
2. Thy precious blood alone, O Christ, has brought us near;
No longer strangers, God in love calls us His children dear.
The title of the Lamb Thou bearest still in heaven,

Memorial of Thy sacrifice and love to sinners given.

3. All hail! Redeemer, King, Thou Lamb of Cavalry!
Let ransomed sinners sing thy name 'Thro' all eternity.
When stand the ransomed throng before the great I AM,
This shall their endless anthem be, "All worthy is the Lamb!"

"Worthy Is the Lamb"
(Rev. 5:12)

- Stephen Leddy, 1967

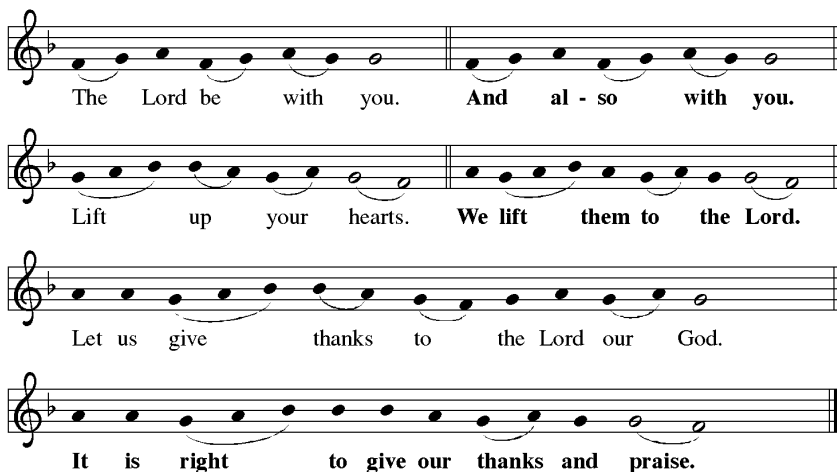
1. Worthy is the Lamb who paid the price of death;
Worthy is the Lamb who gave our souls its breath;
Worthy is the Lamb to grant our lives the call;
Yes, worthy is the Lamb, praise God, He is all!
2. Worthy is the Lamb, though dead all else should be;
Worthy is the Lamb to live in you and me;
Worthy is the Lamb to take our bitter gall;
Yes, worthy is the Lamb, praise God, He is all!
3. Worthy is the Lamb to live my life alone;
Worthy is the Lamb to make our souls His own;
Worthy is the Lamb to change our lives, like Paul;
Yes, worthy is the Lamb, praise God, He is all!"

The congregation may stand.

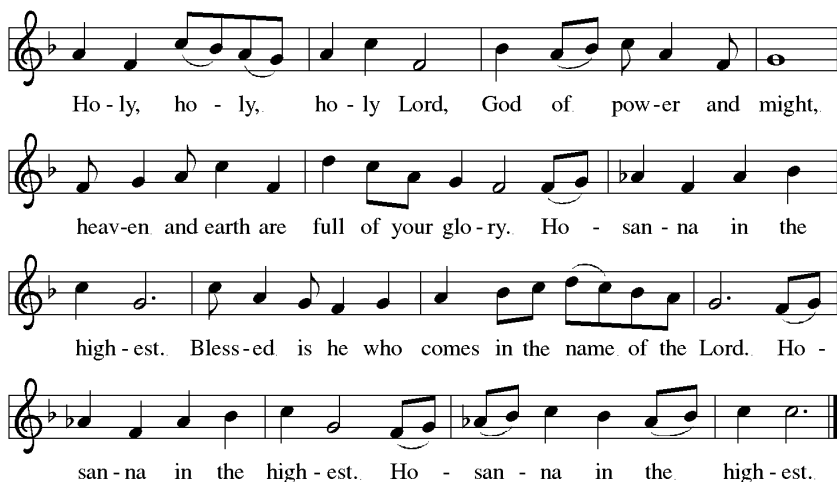
OFFERING PRAYER

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:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father ...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....

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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. 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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Red Book #471

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 fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

Red Book #382

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Pastorale”

- Anthony Giamanco

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Mollie Hibbs	Assisting Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Communion Assistant
Amy Beiler	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Tucker Sequite	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist

Harry Cunningham	Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Stan Graff, Dan Morrow, and Andrew O'Rourke	Ushers
Bob and Karen Domanski	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Wil Morrow,
by Dan and Sue Morrow.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 5/5	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 5/8	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/10	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/11	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for a special coffee hour following worship honoring and thanking Caitlyn Morgan for more than five and a half years of service as our office and communications manager. Caitlyn is moving on to a position as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board Secretary of the Armstrong School District.

This week we also welcome Heather Gigliotti to the church office! Heather lives in Saxonburg and brings strong organizational gifts and a strong sense of purpose to First English. Stop in and introduce yourself if you are in the neighborhood! For the month of May, Heather's hours will be Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 9:36-43

Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

Revelation 7:9-17

A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb

John 10:22-30

Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep

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