

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

- Ronald Arnatt/John Leavitt

“I Greet Thee, Merciful Jesus”

- J.S. Bach

“A Way to Calvary Leadeth”

- Dale Wood

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In this Lenten season, we hear Christ’s call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. As we begin our worship, let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation may kneel or adopt another posture appropriate for confession.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ’s call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, God’s free gift, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God’s love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

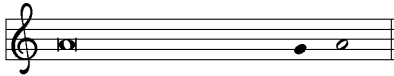
"O Lord throughout These Forty Days"

- 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 a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



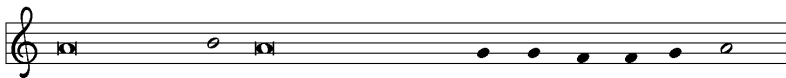
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity 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

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

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

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

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

⁵Then 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.

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

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

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

⁹Do 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."

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

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

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

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

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

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

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

The congregation may kneel or sit.

After each petition, the assisting minister bids:

Hear us, O God.

The congregation responds:

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes:

Receive our prayers, gracious God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our salvation.

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

“Ricercare”

- Jean Langlais

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lord, to Thee We Turn”

- Orlando di Lasso, 1532-1594

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

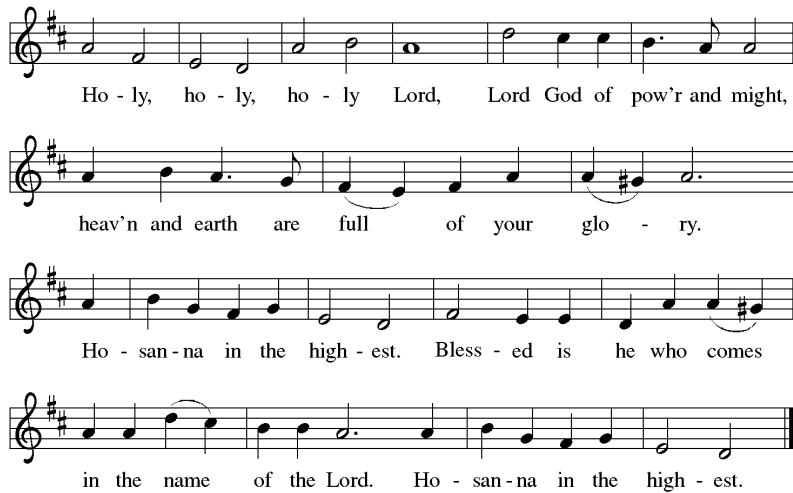
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

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.

The prayers conclude:

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 for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in 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, grant us peace.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion. 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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

- Red Book #325

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

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

“How Good, Lord, to Be Here”

- Red Book #326

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Christ, Who Died Us to Redeem”

- Georg Phillip Telemann

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Assisting Minister
Jim Cunningham	Communion Assistant
Susan Farrell	Reader
Evan Stein	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Signe Mitchell	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Jim Cunningham	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Minister
Jack Rudzki, Larry Christy	Ushers
Susan Farrell & Sue Morrow	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., 2/23	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 2/25	12:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (Trinity)
	7:30 PM	Woman's Way Out AA
Thurs., 2/26	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 2/28	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 3/1	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Lenten Learning Opportunity
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was a great success!

Many thanks and blessings to all, Roxanne Glagola

Come, Bring your Burdens to God is First English's theme for Lenten devotions this year. Take home prayer packets are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please also consider engaging with the communal prayer station on the purple bulletin board in the social hall. Our God hears us!

Church Directory Update: Help us keep our church family connected! After the service, please stop by the social hall to review a hard copy of our directory. We ask that one representative from each family initial next to their entry to confirm their contact information is correct. Any corrections, please indicate on the hard copy.

We want to ensure the well-being of every parishioner. In the event of a medical or personal emergency while on campus, we want to know exactly who to call to support you. Please visit the social hall to fill out an Emergency Contact Form. These forms are kept confidential and will only be accessed by authorized staff if an urgent need arises.

The 2025 Contribution Statements are now available for pick up in the Social Hall. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. If you are unable to pick yours up in person, please Contact the Church Office to request that a digital copy be emailed to you.

Submissions for April's Newsletter are due to the office by Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Help us beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday! The sign-up for sheet for Easter flowers is available in the Social Hall. Flowers will decorate the alter during our celebration and will be yours to take home after the service. Orders are due by March 8th.

The Community Dinner Ministries served 310 guests lasts Monday, February 16, 2026. Our team of volunteers worked together to ensure every guest was served efficiently and with a welcoming atmosphere.

If you would like to add or remove 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

Joan Giese; DJ Sampson; Justine Brown; Darrell Mueller; Keith Graff; Cindy Regis; Hannah Love; Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Nelson Ng; Valerie Kurth; Sue Henry; Tad Sellers; Aryl Bashline, Keeler Family; Charlie and Ellen VanArsdale; Chris and his family; Linda Mae; Betsy Guimond; Joanne, Wynter; Michelle; Shawn Barry; Robert Gamble; Lisa and Jim; Gavin Graff; Bob Fleeger; Mike Chapman; Kim Thompson Parkh; Jack Johnson; Jessica Steightner and family; Kim; Dave and Marianne Hill; the family of Jacob Ruth; Gerry O'Rourke; Amelia Cline; Evelyn Shaulis; Family & friends of Bruce Solomon; Family and friends of Gerry Wigton; Susan; the family and friends of Frank Miller; Elaine; Gilmore Hilliard; Frank Ian; Duane Cooper; Patrick Farley; The family & friends of Stephen Laine (Nancy Schneidmiller); Mackenzie Perkins; Janice Krause; Lucas Bray; Randy Kosior; The family & friends of Greg Whitely; Gigi and Randy Kosier; The family & friends of Chris Schnur; The French Family.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

John 3:1-17

The mission of Christ: to save the world

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*Reading the Scriptures with Love and Respect
for the Jewish People*



A Lenten Discussion Series

With the ELCA congregations in the Butler Area

First English Lutheran Church - 241 N. Main Street, Butler
Sunday February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

LENTEN MIDWEEK PRAYER

12pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

120 Sunset Drive, Butler, Pa 16001

February 25, March 4, March 11,
March 18, March 25

