

**First English Lutheran Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026  
10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”

- Welsh melody, *arr.*

All Creations Sings

“God So Loved the World”

- Melchior Frank

“Aria”

- Anthony Giamanco

**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

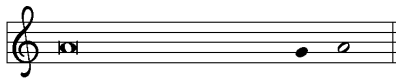
"What Wondrous Love Is This"

- Red Book #666

## 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.



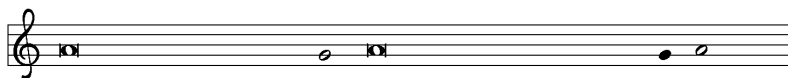
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



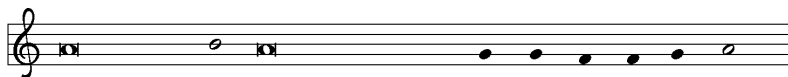
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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

### **FIRST READING      Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 121**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

### **SECOND READING      Romans 4:1-5; 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

### LENTEN ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”

Red Book #323

## 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

“Elévation”

- Amédée de Vallombrosa

## CHOIR ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

- David H. Williams

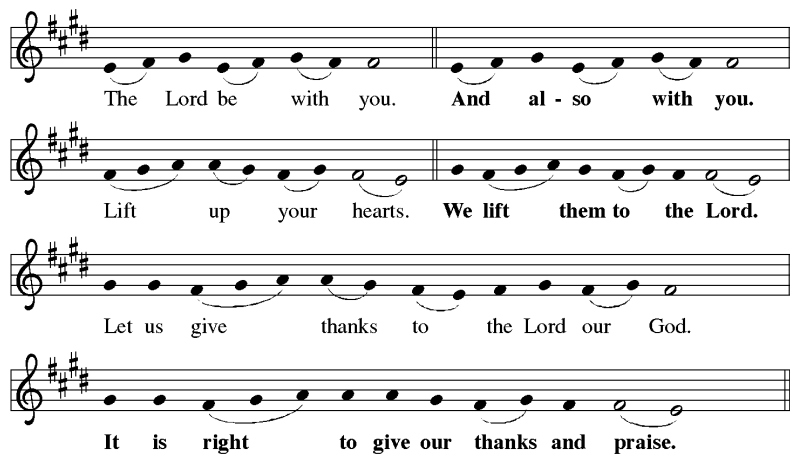
*John 3:16*

*The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.  
The congregation may stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

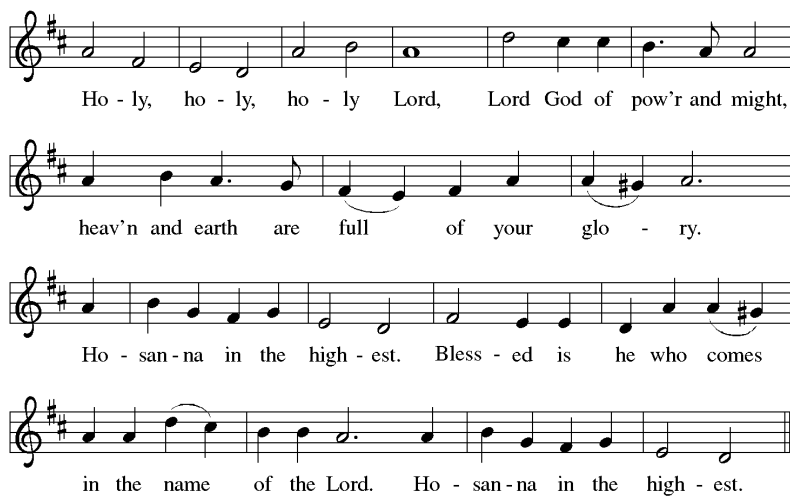
*led by the assisting minister*

## 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**

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

- Red Book #334

*Congregation can sing first three stanza and the final “Lent 2” stanza.*

### **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**

“Blessed Assurance”

- Red Book #638

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Pastorale”

- Anthony Giamanco

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Maggie Babinka-Repic	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Yvonne Thickey	<b>Reader</b>
Sharon Heist Miller	<b>Crucifer</b>
Tucker Sequite	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Sr. Choir Director</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Joan Giese	<b>PowerPoint Minister</b>
Dan Morrow, Stan Graff, Andrew O'Rourke	<b>Ushers</b>
Jack & Amy Beiler	<b>Counters</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

*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., 3/2	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 3/4	12:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (Trinity)
	1:30 PM	Clergy Meeting (Social Hall)
	7:30 PM	Woman's Way Out AA
Thurs., 3/5	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 3/7	9:30 AM	DAR
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 3/8	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Confirmation Class
	4:00 PM	Lenten Learning Opportunity
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.

**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 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Community Dinner Ministries served 261 guests last Monday,** February 23, 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](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net).

## **PRAYERS**

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 Fleegeer; 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**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

*Water from the rock in the wilderness*

**Psalm 95**

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

**Romans 5:1-11**

*Reconciled to God by Christ's death*

**John 4:5-42**

*Baptismal image: the woman at the well*

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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