

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Today our liturgy begins in the social hall for the liturgy of the palms.

PRELUDE

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” - attributed to J.S. Bach
“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” - Johann Pachelbel and
Rayner Brown

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

WELCOME

ACCLAMATION *three times*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS *all may raise their palms*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

During the hymn, the procession moves into the sanctuary.

GATHERING HYMN *(next page)*

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring.



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

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ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may sit.

REETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray:

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 *read responsively*

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**
¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING **Philippians 2:5-11**

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

HYMN

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” sts. 1-2 Red Book #345

The congregation may sit.

HOMILY

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The passion reading is found in the insert in this bulletin. The congregation is invited to read the speaking parts marked with a leaf. After worship, please place your copy of the passion reading in the collection box in the back of the sanctuary so that they can be reused.

The congregation may stand.

HYMN

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” sts. 3-4 Red Book #345

NICEND 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

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

"Elegy"

- Robert Lau

ANTHEM

“Prayer to Jesus”

-Richard de Castre
CAROL A.D. 1430
Sir R.R. Terry, *arr.*

1. Jesu, Lord, that madest me, and with Thy blessed blood hast bought,
Forgive that I have grieved Thee with word, and will, and also with thought.

Jesu, in whom is all my trust, that died upon the rude tree,
Withdraw my heart from fleshly lust and from all worldly vanity.

2. Jesu, for Thy wounded marks on feet and on Thy hands have two,
O make me meek and low of heart, and Thee to love as I should do.

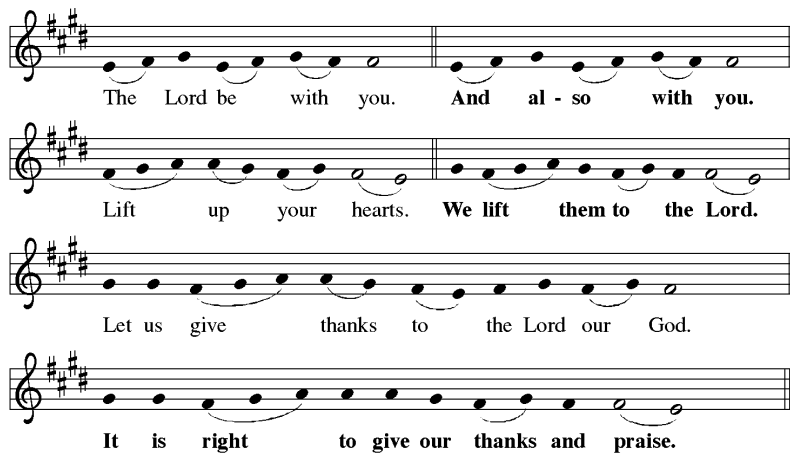
Jesu, keep them that are good, amend them that have grieved Thee,
And send them fruits of earthly food as each man needeth in his degree.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

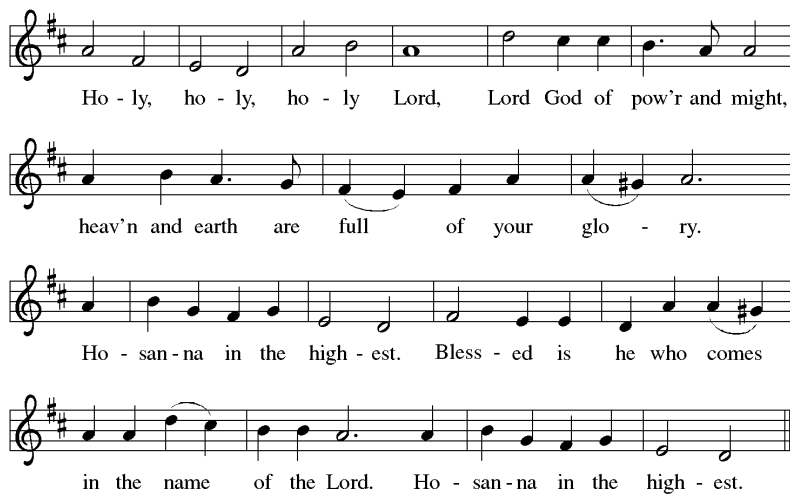
led by the assisting minister

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.

We give you thanks, Father....all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, 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 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, 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

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Red Book #343

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

“Were You There”

Red Book #353

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

- David H. Hegarty, *arr.*

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Lois Trimbur	Assisting Minister
Sandy Lefebvre	Communion Assistant
Li Stoehr	Reader
Sue Morrow	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Joan Giese	PowerPoint Minister
Jack Rudzki, Larry Christy, Brenden Stevens, Susan Farrell	Ushers
Jack & Amy Beiler	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., 3/30	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wed., 4/1	1:30 PM	Clergy Meeting
	7:00 PM	Woman’s Way Out AA
Thurs., 4/2	6:30 PM	Homemade Soup & Bread Supper
	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Fri., 4/3	7:30 PM	Good Friday Worship
Sat., 4/4	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/5	8:45 AM	Flower the Cross

	10:00 AM	Worship followed by Easter breakfast
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be advised that there will be no Bible study sessions held on Thursday, April 2, and Sunday, April 5. We look forward to resuming our regular schedule the following week

Maundy Thursday: Homemade Soup & Bread Supper

Join us on April 2 at 6:30 pm as we gather in the tradition of the Last Supper for a simple meal of fellowship. We will share a variety of homemade soups and fresh breads together before our evening service. Please sign up in the social hall to let us know you're coming or if you'd like to provide a pot of your favorite soup or a loaf of bread.

Behold the Beauty of the Cross! We invite you to help transform the wooden cross in the sanctuary into a symbol of new life. Please bring your fresh-cut flowers to the sanctuary at **8:45 am** on Easter Sunday, prior to our **10:00 am** worship service. Please sign up in the social hall to participate.

Paschal Pastries: An Easter Potluck Breakfast

Join us for a continental-style feast on Easter Sunday, April 5, immediately following our worship service! Please bring your favorite baked goods or cold items—like fresh fruit or cheese plates—to share as we celebrate together.

Thanks to the participants in the Sunday Morning Bible Study for leading us through the Passion according to Matthew!

Narrator: Marlin Boltz
 Jesus: Karen Boltz
 Judas: Santino Oliveria
 Peter: Lon Cooper
 High Priest: Sandy Lefebvre
 Pilate: Marj Rogner
 Witness: Aiden Arne
 Servant: James Rhinehart

The Community Dinner Ministries served 342 guests last Monday, March 23, 2026. Our team of volunteers worked together to ensure every guest was served efficiently and with a welcoming atmosphere.

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

A Disclosure Statement from Bishop Melissa Stoller of the SWPA Synod

Former pastor Richard Leseganich, who served at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Butler from 2000 to 2005, has resigned the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament after allegations of misconduct were made in his current call. Anyone with any questions or concerns should contact Bishop Stoller at the synod office at 412-367-8222.

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.

ON BEING

GOOD NEIGHBORS

WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSION
WITH **NOAH SCHOEN** OF THE
HOLOCAUST CENTER OF PITTSBURGH

 **SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

 **4:00-5:30 PM**

 **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**
241 N. MAIN STREET | BUTLER, PA

Join us for a conversation about **understanding, solidarity,**
and **supporting our Jewish neighbors.**

A PROGRAM OF **THE BUTLER CLERGY NETWORK**

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 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; Fred & Fifi Spangler; Verne Barlett; Nick Shanor.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 10:34-43

God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

Colossians 3:1-4

Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

Matthew 28:1-10

Proclaim the resurrection

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HOLY WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Palm Sunday, March 29: 10 am

With Palm Procession and Passion according to
Matthew

Maundy Thursday, April 2: 7:30 pm

Service of Holy Communion with Prayer Stations
and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3: 7:30 pm

Good Friday Liturgy with the Passion according to
John



Easter Sunday, April 5: 10 am

Worship with Holy Communion at First English
Celebratory Coffee Hour to follow