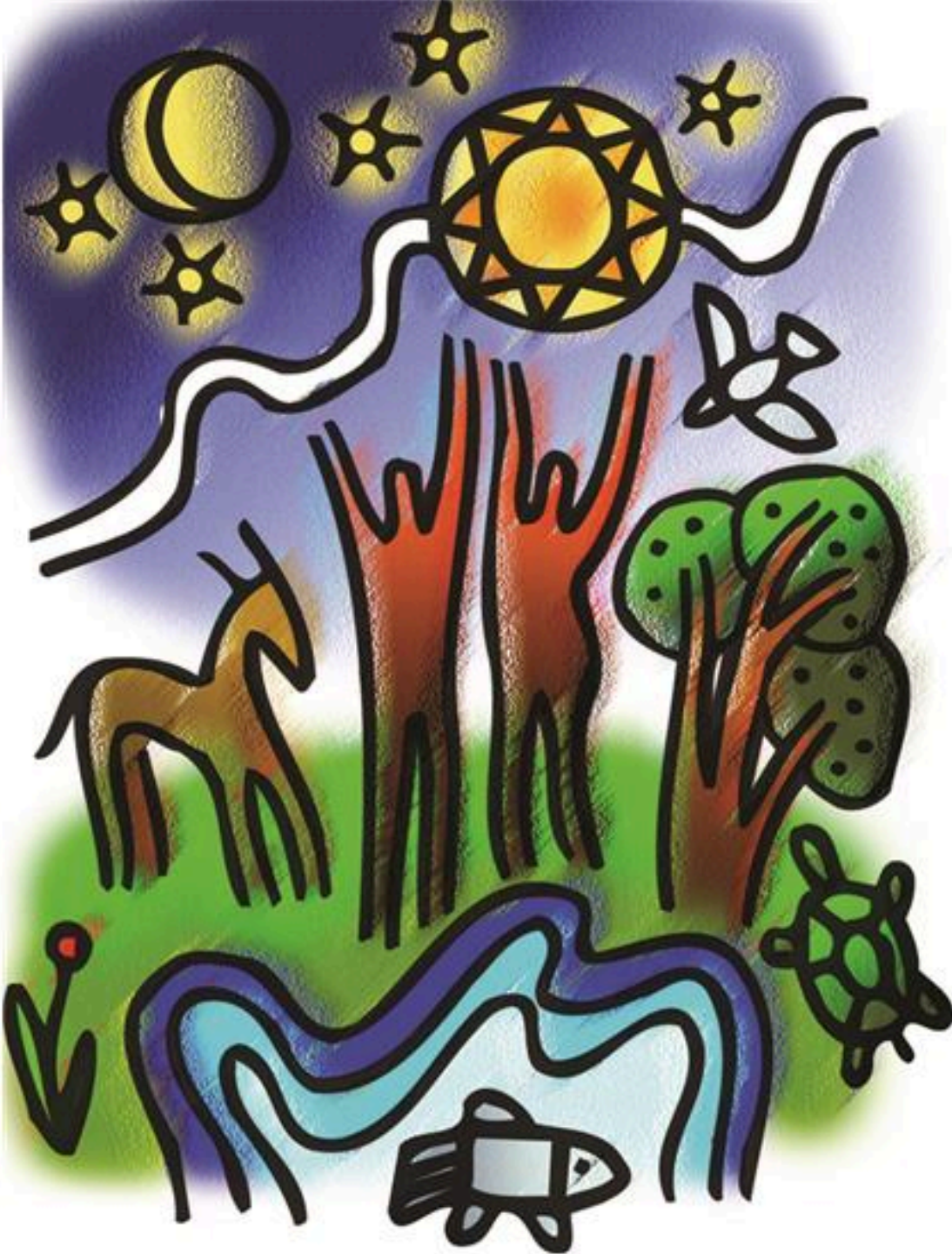


Word & Eucharist
Holy Week: The Great Vigil of Easter
Saturday, March 30, 2024
7:59 pm ~ ONLINE & ONSITE



bienvenidos!

everyone is welcome. this means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. You're invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are. We are committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally.

Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. We're Lutheran, so that means we believe in grace for everyone. The good news of Jesus Christ, who brings us the love and mercy of God as a gift, liberates us to love as we are loved, serve as we are served, and give as we have been given much. We rejoice in the diversity that has nurtured and enriched the whole church. Whether you're from another faith tradition, a seeker and questioner looking for more to life and a place to explore, or even a lifelong Lutheran, we're glad to have you.

At First English, **we strive to use language** for God, Christ, and humanity **that is inclusive and diverse.** Our use of feminine, non-gender, and masculine names and metaphors for God, both biblical and contemporary, helps us to experience God more fully. Languages that include persons of all gender identities, sexualities, ethnicities, and color, helps us better reflect God's expansive love and diversity.

Land Acknowledgement

The ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement is an opportunity for the church to increase our understanding of our impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. We believe that the truth, and our knowing and embracing it, is a first step toward healing for all of us. We acknowledge the presence of God having existed before this region's conquest in ages past, on land once belonging to the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Tonkawa, and Jumanos peoples; land where we now live, move, and have our being, striving to honor the land and lifting up histories beyond our own.

If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, WELCOME! **Use the online Welcome Visitors information form** and provide feedback on your visit: <http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors>.

We ask everyone to respect each individual's safety needs and desires.

Hearing assistance devices are available for use in the sanctuary. Two options are available: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Please connect with an usher if you would like a hearing assistance device.

We welcome children in this worship service with a Spirit Space. Children with adults are invited to a space in the Chapel of the Saints for quiet play and reading, including a rug, floor pillows, soft blocks, coloring supplies, lap desks, Bible story books, and other interactive items. Adults have places to sit while worshipping with children. Children and adults can remain in the Spirit Space following the sermon, and then return to the pews for the remainder of the liturgy—or remain in the Spirit Space. We welcome children by encouraging them and celebrating the joy and livelihood they offer.

We welcome your generosity in person and online. The reign of God is not something that we can point to and say, “There it is!” Yet, in moments of waiting on the Spirit, we discover God’s presence among us. In our gathering of gifts, food, silence, song, scripture, prayer, and ourselves, we are encountering the living power of Jesus – a leader who truly cares for people and knows our pain and our beauty. In the amazing and extravagant love that he shows us, we find strength to love others.

Music, in a rich diversity, is an important part of our ministry and witness at First English, including the outstanding acoustics of our nave. As we grow our music ministry, we are embarking on a significant restoration campaign for our valued and aged pipe organ.

In an effort to connect with the broadest number of people, **we livestream and archive our services and events for broadcast on the internet.** Your attendance at an event constitutes your consent to be included in filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including promotion. If you prefer to avoid being filmed, please use a back pew.

All Gender Restrooms with changing tables are in the left side hallway as you face the front of the sanctuary.

✝ al congregarse gathering ✝

Everyone is welcome here. This means you.

The assembly offers acclamations and songs printed in bold.

As we gather, you need this bulletin and an individual candle.

Lighting of the New Fire

Reconocimiento de Tierras

We acknowledge the presence of God having existed before this region's conquest in ages past, on land once belonging to the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Tonkawa, and Jumanos peoples; land where we now live, move, and have our being, striving to honor the land and lifting up histories beyond our own.

Land Acknowledgement

Les damos la Bienvenida!

Welcome!

Saludo

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.

People of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Blessing of the Fire

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Inscribing of the Paschal Candle

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle.

Christ, yesterday and today, ✠
the beginning and the ending. A Ω
To Christ belongs all time 2
and all the ages; 0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion 2
now and forever. 4

Amen.

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, and says:

The light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Candlelight Procession

The procession begins, led by a minister bearing the paschal candle.

During the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted.

As the procession begins, at midpoint, and at the conclusion, a minister sings:

The light^l of Christ.

Thanks be^l to God.

The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

The assembly remains standing, as able.

Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

music: Plainsong chant

The assembly remains standing, as able.

A minister sings the Easter Proclamation.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers . . .

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a plainsong chant style. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The third staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The notes are simple, with some slurs and a double bar line at the end of the first staff.

*The assembly repeats each “**This is the night**” after the minister.*

...one God, now and forever.

Am- | en. (sung)

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

The singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to focus our prayer.

The stories tell of God’s saving acts, and point the way toward Christ and the paschal mystery to which we are joined and invited to in baptism.

The pattern of story, musical response, and prayer holds our proclamation.

Pattern: Story | Musical Response | Prayer

Story - *The assembly is seated.*

At the conclusion of the story:
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Musical Response - *The assembly standing.*

text: from Psalm 30; music: Paul Inwood

Refrain

I will praise you, Lord, you have res - cued me,
 I will praise you, Lord, for your mer-cy. I will praise you, Lord,
 you have res - cued me: I will praise you, Lord.

Prayer - *The assembly standing.*

Stories

1. Genesis 1:1—2:4a - Creation
2. Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 - Flood
3. Genesis 22:1-18 - Testing of Abraham
4. Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 - Deliverance at the Red Sea
5. Isaiah 55:1-11 - Salvation to all
6. Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 - The wisdom of God
7. Ezekiel 36:24-28 - A new heart and a new spirit
8. Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Valley of the dry bones
9. Zephaniah 3:14-20 - The gathering of God's people
10. Jonah 1:1--2:1 - The deliverance of Jonah
11. Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 - Clothed in the garments of salvation
12. Daniel 3:1-29 - Deliverance from the fiery furnace

All of the assembly is invited to gather near the baptismal font.

✠ **santa bautismo**

holy baptism ✠

Holy Baptism is the sacrament of new birth into the life of Christ in the community of the church. The history of God's salvation, just heard in the stories of faith and life, are proclaimed in Christ's name for each person. The baptized people of God find in this liturgy an opportunity to renew and affirm their baptismal vows through their affirmation of faith in the Creed and sprinkling with baptismal waters, hearing once again God's promise of forgiveness and unconditional love.

Invitation to Renewal

Affirmation of Faith | Apostles' Creed

Let us boldly make affirmation of our faith before God and embrace the life of the Spirit. If you are not a disciple of Jesus, may this affirmation be a sign of blessing and an invitation to deeper relationships in the life of the Church.

I ask you to profess faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the whole church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them!

Together let us use the Apostles' Creed to affirm the faith that unites us with the whole church, across time, across oceans, across peoples.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

Water is poured into the font at the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,
you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and creeks.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Breathe your Spirit into this water,
and into all who are gathered here this night.

Illuminate our days. Enliven our bones. Wash away our tears.

Take away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your eternal fountain,

and bring to birth the body of Christ, † for he lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

You have made public affirmation of your faith.

Do you intend to live in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Prayer of the Spirit

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

During the litany of the saints, the assembly is sprinkled with water in remembrance, renewal and invitation in baptism.

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Be gracious to us. **Hear us, O God.**

Deliver your people. **Hear us, O God.**

You loved us before the world was made: **Hear us, O God.**

You rescued the people of your promise: **Hear us, O God.**

You spoke through your prophets: **Hear us, O God.**

You gave your only Son for the life of the world: **Hear us, O God.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **Great is your love.**

And was born of the Virgin Mary: **Great is your love.**
Who by his cross and suffering has redeemed the world: **Great is your love.**
And has washed us from our sins: **Great is your love.**
Who on the third day rose from the dead: **Great is your love.**
And has given us the victory: **Great is your love.**
Who ascended on high: **Great is your love.**
And intercedes for us at the right hand of God: **Great is your love.**

For the gift of the Holy Spirit: **Thanks be to God.**
For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church: **Thanks be to God.**
For the great cloud of witnesses: **Thanks be to God.**
For Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah: **Thanks be to God.**
For Gideon and Deborah, David and Esther: **Thanks be to God.**
For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel: **Thanks be to God.**
For Miriam and Rahab, Abigail and Ruth: **Thanks be to God.**

For Mary, mother of our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**
For John, who baptized in the Jordan: **Thanks be to God.**
For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Mary and Martha: **Thanks be to God.**
For James and John, Peter and Andrew: **Thanks be to God.**
For Paul and Apollos, Stephen and Phoebe: **Thanks be to God.**
For Dorothy Day and Oscar Romero: **Thanks be to God.**
For Martin Luther and Harriett Tubman: **Thanks be to God.**
For Elizabeth Seton and Dietrich Bonhoeffer: **Thanks be to God.**
For all holy people, our ancestors in faith: **Thanks be to God.**
For the noble band of the prophets: **Thanks be to God.**
For the glorious company of the apostles: **Thanks be to God.**
For the white-robed army of martyrs: **Thanks be to God.**
For the cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the holy angels: **Thanks be to God.**

Bring us with all your saints to the river of life: **Hear us, O God.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Easter Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Evangelio

John:1-18 NRSV

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

The assembly sings the acclamation as all return to their places.

Gospel Acclamation

Zimbabwe

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu,

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

✝ comida meal ✝

La Paz

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*We offer signs and gestures of peace.
We are aware of the desire for distance to be
maintained and touch to be respected. We
are invited to make a comment in the chat or
to text someone.*

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

Anuncios & Ofreciendo Invitación

Announcements & Offering Invitation

An offering is gathered for the mission of God in the world through the care of those in need.

Worshipers may give financially online at: www.felcaustin.org/information/giving

Offering Music

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

text: Martin Luther (1483-1546)

arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands for our offenses given;
but now at God’s right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Then let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven;
the Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.
Christ alone, our souls will feed, he is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other! Hallelujah!

The assembly stands to sing the hymn.

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts are prepared for blessing.

The ministers dress the altar and furniture in celebration of the resurrection.

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

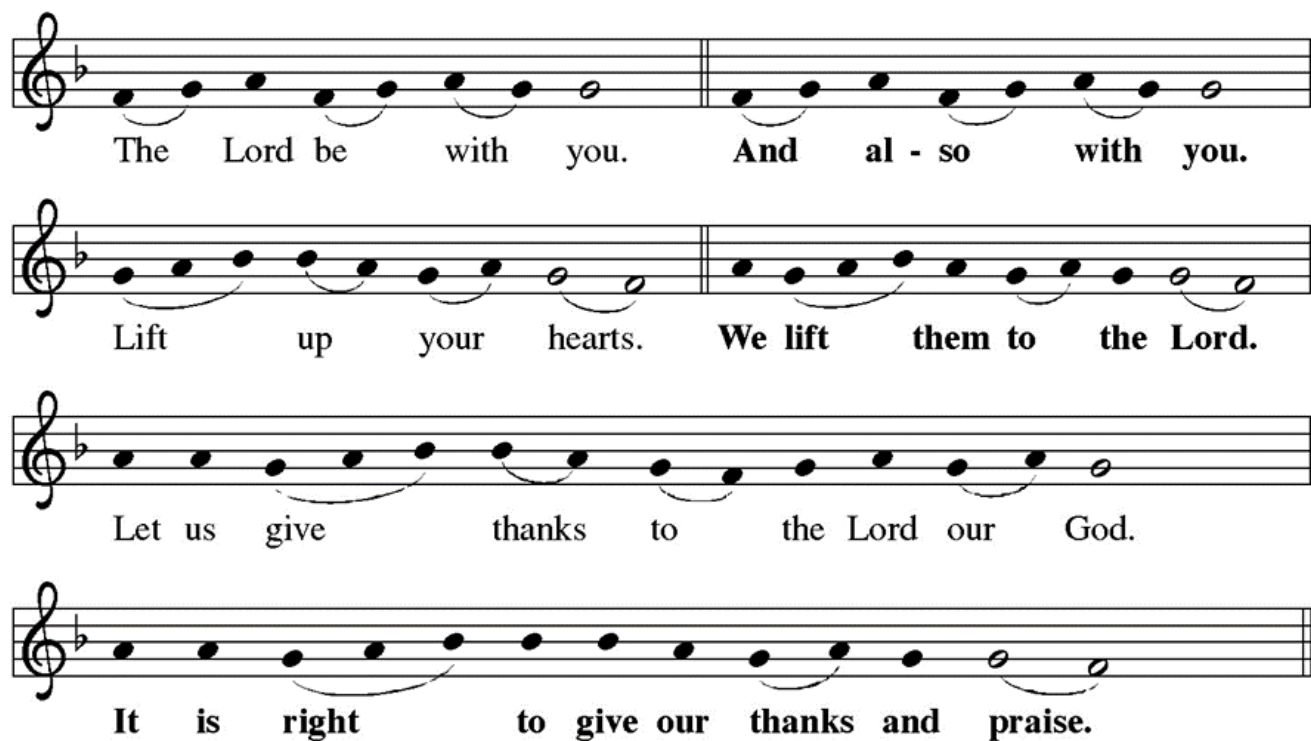
who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n-ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

16

Gran Plegaria Eucarística

music: Joel Martinson



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

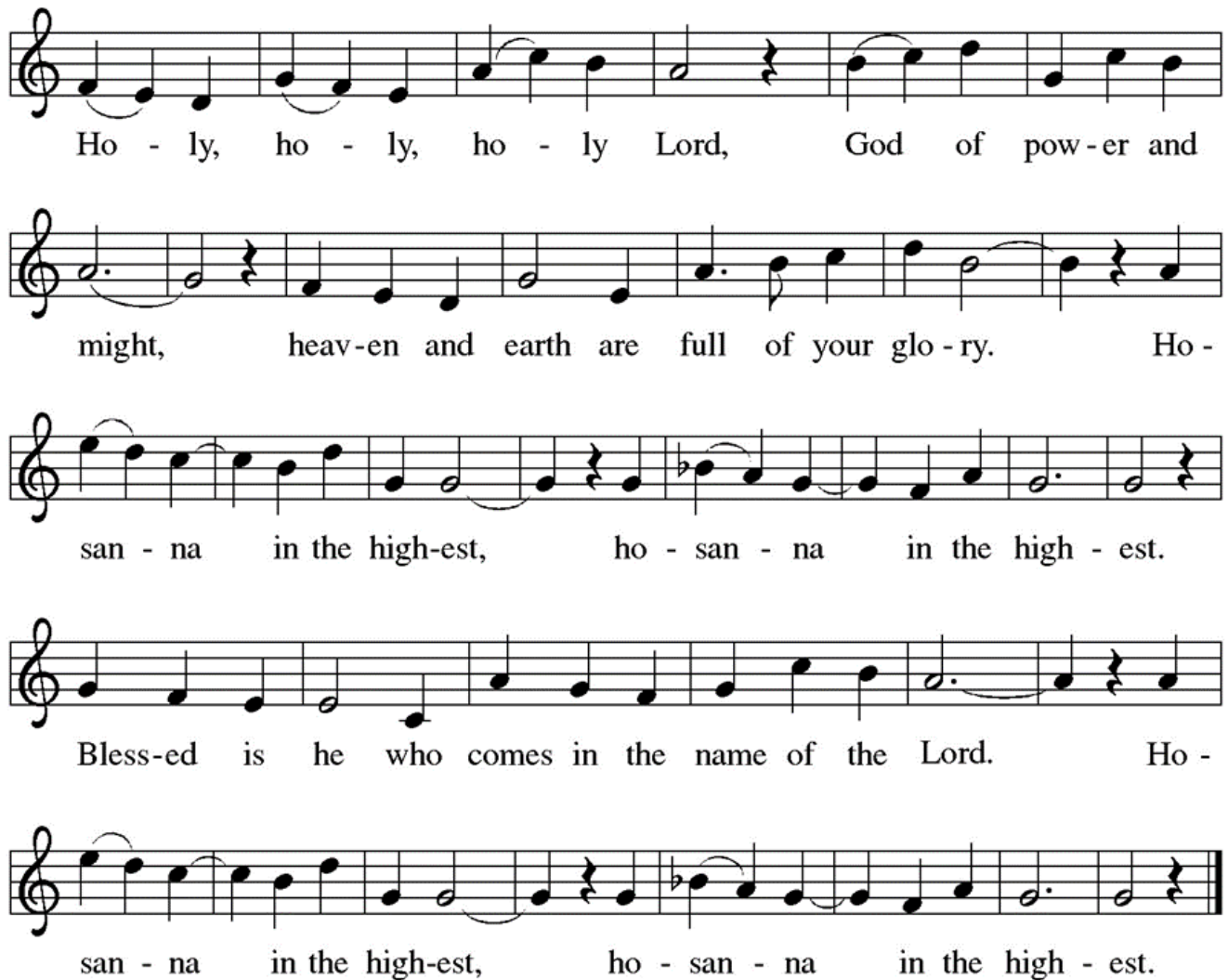
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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:

Sanctus: holy, holy, holy



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, 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, living, and loving God . . .

and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Remembering, therefore, Christ's life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this hurting and beautiful world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Breathe your Spirit on us . . . clothed in the new life of Christ.

Remember, Lord, your one, holy, . . . and preserve us in peace.

Remember the people of the nations . . . new, peaceful day with lasting justice.

Remember the sick and all who cry out . . . grant them healing and restoration.

Remember the people in this assembly . . . that we may live for love alone.

Remember all the blessed dead . . . through the power of your love.

Through Christ ✝ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit, in the church and in the world, both now and forever.

Amen!



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray, in our own languages, 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 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**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed
be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven. Give us
today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el
cielo, santificado sea tu
nombre. Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra
como en el cielo. Danos hoy
nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos
ofenden. No nos dejes caer en
tentación y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es
el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y siempre. Amén.**

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is
your name, your kin-dom
come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven. Give us
today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sin, as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For the
kin-dom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

Partiendo el Pan

Breaking of the Bread



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitación a la Comunión

All people, including children, are invited to the Lord's Supper.

We encourage you to participate in a way that is meaningful for you.

Ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand.

Then you may proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured.

Gluten-free wafers/grape juice are available. Please ask a minister.

Then make your way to your seat by a side aisle.

You are invited to remain seated in prayer and meditation.

If you are not communing, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. If you desire communion or a blessing at your seat, let an usher or minister know.

As you pass the baptismal font upon entering or leaving the space, and at communion distribution, you are invited to dip your hand in the water and make the sign of the cross. This is an ancient body prayer to remember baptism into the risen Christ. You may touch your hand to your forehead, then to your chest, then from one shoulder to another shoulder.

Communion Song

Be Not Afraid (ELW 388) Taizé

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

✠ **envio**
sending ✠

As we receive God's protection and blessing, please stand.

Bendición

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

May the blessing of God, ✠ whose Spirit raised Christ to new life, strengthen you in faith, enrich you with hope, and fill you for love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW 382

Verses 1, 3, 4

Dismissal to Mission

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Y'all, go in peace to love and serve in newness of life!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Hospitality

Following the liturgy, we invite you to a time of hospitality in the Chapel of the Saints.

Anuncios de la Comunidad de la Iglesia Church Community Announcements

Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Easter Day

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism *with **David Preston Francis**; with **William Warren Nix**, son of Caroline Porter Nix & Brady Nix, whose sponsors are Merrily & Terry Porter and Amy & Hardy Nix, and whose big brother is Andrew; and with **Aditi Juliette Mitra**, daughter of Anna Wilde Mitra & Sayantan Mitra, whose sponsor is Ashley Herron.* We welcome family and friends to celebrate this special day. *May God's light continue to shine through you, David, William, and Aditi!*

The Easter Season

The Easter season is the church's fifty-day celebration of the resurrection of Christ. It is the time of greatest joy as we gather in the good news of God's victory over death and the power to renew our lives in Christ. It is the counterbalance to the forty-day season of Lent that prepared us for such a great celebration. In the tradition of the whole church, it was also the time for the newly baptized to deepen their connection to Christ through sharing in the resurrection meal of communion, and to experience the mystery of new life in Christ as a gift of grace. **A Paschal candle is a central symbol** in the church's worship life. The paschal candle, newly made and lit throughout the Easter season, shines forth with the light of Christ's resurrection, reminding us that we have new life in God's love.

Learning Ministry Children & Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, April 7

Today we'll celebrate the resurrection of Christ in festive worship and hospitality and an Easter Egg Hunt during hospitality time! **The next gathering for children and adult faith formation will be on Sunday, April 7 at 9am.** Gwen Flory will engage adults in "Every Day is Earth Day: actionable ways each of us can protect our planet" as we celebrate Earth Day!

Backpack Drive for Micah 6 Ministries: April

We are collecting backpacks (new or slightly used) for our friends at Micah 6 Ministries during the month of April. Folks need a helpful way to carry food, clothing, and personal items. Bring a new or slightly used backpack to the church sanctuary and place it in a Micah 6 box in the north transept of the sanctuary. We are grateful to Derek Bridges for the idea to meet this need. Questions? Contact Andy MacLaren at andymaclaren@cs.com. For more information on Micah 6 of Austin, visit <https://www.micah6austin.org/>

Romani Passion Concert: April 5 at 7:30pm

Join Oliver Rajamani with Via Romen in *Romani (Gypsy) Passion*, a concert of world Romani India and Texas connections **on Friday, April 5 at 7:30 pm at Scottish Rite Theatre**. Ticket info at www.taranada.org. For more information, visit www.oliverrajamani.com.

Benevolence Task Force: We Want Your Input!

The Benevolence Task Force is organized through the Congregation Council, and they have appointed Claudia Barlow, Teresa Ringness, Ben Rode, and Merrily Porter for 2024. The task force would like your input to identify organizations or agencies the congregation would like to financially support in 2024. The money has been approved by the congregation in the 2024 ministry budget. We're guided by our intention to consider organizations that reflect our biblical and congregational values; to support organizations that are local and others that are regional or global in their witness; and to financially support a group we are serving already in other ways, such as Micah 6 Ministries. We welcome your suggestions of organizations/groups that you would like to support. Pass your thoughts **to Merrily Porter by April 3: mporter58@gmail.com**.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Sunday, April 7. Wear BLUE!

On Sunday, April 7, FELC will join Upbring in calling awareness to and advocacy for the prevention of child abuse. This is an opportunity to join with churches across Texas to raise awareness of Upbring's efforts to break the cycle of child abuse and ask God to protect, comfort, and heal the thousands of children who are survivors of child abuse each year. For more than a century, from the service-minded Lutherans who dreamed of building an orphanage in the 1860s to the vital programs in place today throughout Texas, Upbring has grown and adapted to the changing needs of society. Although they have been known by different names, the meaning behind Upbring, honors the past while promising a commitment to the future – one that is long standing, innovative, and designed to “bring up” children and families just as predecessors have done. **On Sunday, April 7 we are invited to wear the color blue** in solidarity and awareness with children and families responding to child abuse. For more information, visit www.upbring.org

Feeding Hungry Students: Tuesday, April 9

FELC is serving at Lutheran Campus Ministry's Tailgate Tuesday on Tuesday, April 9. LuMin is now feeding over 450 students each week. Because of this, we've added additional slots to the signup. You can volunteer from 3-5pm to prepare for the meal, from 5-7pm to serve the meal, 7-8pm for cleanup, or for the full 5 hours. You may also come and offer support and presence - and you can give financially. There is parking on the south side of 21st St. If you need a ride, we will meet at FELC at 2:45 and carpool to West Campus, or you can meet us there. Your time will be greatly appreciated. Please sign up. Contact: Paul Barlow at tpaulbarlow@gmail.com.

FELC Book Club: Sunday, April 14

The FELC Book Club gathers (*second Sunday*) on April 14, 1:00-3:00 pm. Our book this month is *Beyond Magenta: Transgender and Nonbinary Teens Speak Out*, Susan Kuklin. It's a fascinating book. Join the conversation; all are welcome, even if you haven't read the book. For information and meeting location contact Anne Wiebe at wiebeanne@hotmail.com.

Ministers Serving in Liturgy & Hospitality

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Servers	Barbara Wiederaenders, Margaret Bruesch
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Flowers	Teresa Ringness
Lectors	
Livestream Technician	J.P. Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir
Offering Counter	Terry Porter
Hospitality Hosts	Merrily Porter, Nancy Baden, Anne Wiebe
Presiding Minister	Pastor Bradley Fuerst, campus pastor of LuMin

Easter Thanksgivings

We give thanks to God for many offerings, including:

- the people, families, and sponsors who offer themselves for holy baptism;
- the gift of Easter Lilies by Teresa Ringness in memory of her son, Jeffrey David Tice;
- the stewardship of God's creation & our campus;
- those who prepare our hospitality time;
- those who prepare & serve food for those who are hungry;
- those who give financially for the mission & engagement of this congregation;
- those who offer the gifts of art & music, poetry & preaching to glorify God;
- the gifts of children's wonder & elders wisdom;
- those who advocate, heal, teach, protect, care, & serve;
- those who work, pray, & protest for peace with justice;
- every blessing today, and for the joy of welcoming God's presence in one another.

As a faith community, First English prays for...

the citizens, immigrants, and refugees of the United States;
the national, state, local leaders of the United States;
the people of Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East, and all places of war;
all communities and families, including those living with gun violence;
all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, and quality care, and for those who offer it;
our care ministers;
all who offer protection, defense, and advocacy, in this community and in our nation;
all who are LGBTQIA2S+, and for allies who advocate for safety, justice, and equity;
God's guidance for our faith community in this time of transition and renewal;
our staff, child development center board of directors, and congregation council;
our child development center students and families;
all people seeking healing and justice;
all in any need and thanksgiving.

Word in Season Devotional Booklets

April, May, June devotional books are available in the narthex at the main church entrance and near the Second Readings Library in the hallway to the fellowship hall. Large print editions are also available.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Chicken BBQ: Saturday, April 27, 4-8pm *All are welcome!*

Everyone is invited to the longest-running community & social event of FELC (since 1964): our annual chicken BBQ, to be held in our parking lot (weather permitting)!

Our pitmasters will start smoking chickens in our outdoor smoker pit in the afternoon, and our potato salad and beans team will be getting the sides ready.

You're welcome to come and visit beginning at 4 pm. BYOB. Dinner will be served around 6 pm, and includes BBQ chicken, beans, potato salad, drinks, and ice cream.

For more information about the FELC welcome, worship, community life, learning, and engagement, racial justice and reconciliation ministries, our child development center, and ways to care and serve, visit our website.

Since 1972, **the First English Lutheran Child Development Center** has been serving the community by offering safe, loving, and engaging care for children (infant - 5 years) and families of the Austin area. Our mission is to provide a quality full-day child care experience that helps each child develop cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally, and we're passionate about our work. Visit <https://www.firstenglishcdc.org> or call 512-478-5424.

Congregation Council

President LaRu Woody
felcpresident@felcaustin.org
Vice President Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Secretary Nancy Baden
Treasurer Allen Jensen
Financial Secretary Gwen Flory
Jerry Don Aguirre Paul Barlow
Charlie Boas Margaret Bruesch
Kristin Mondy Nancy Neuse
Benjamin Rode Mari Ward
Anne Wiebe

Staff

Pastor In Transition

Cantor Bryan Rust (he/him)
cantor@felcaustin.org

Child Development Center Director

Dr. Paulette Clemons (she/her)
director@firstenglishcdc.org

CDC Assistant Director

Cat Holness (she/her)
asstdirector@firstenglishcdc.org

CDC Staff

Lisa Brown, Patricia Ortego,
Sabrina Paiz, Alexis Tovar

Church Office Administrator

Randi Ladolcetta (she/her)
office@felcaustin.org

Custodial Care

Teresa del Aguila & family

Child Development Center Board of Directors

CDCBoard@felcaustin.org
President Sig Rydquist, FELCDC Parent
Vice Pres. Merrily Porter, FELC
Secretary Erin McCracken, FELC
Treasurer Monica Lund, FELC
Tim Atkinson (FELC),
Kevin Incorvia (Parent),
Drew Newell (Parent),
Anne Wiebe (FELC)

Transition Ministry Team

FELCTransitionMinistry@felcaustin.org
Tim Atkinson Randy Baden
Allen Jensen Erin McCracken
Nikki Northcutt Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Barbara Schutz

FELC is in a transition ministry that began in January, 2023. The transition ministry has two parts: the transition itself and the call process for our next pastor of word and sacrament. This transition is the work of the whole congregation and our partners, to God's glory, and for the congregation and community. For more information visit the *FELC in Transition* page on our website.



God Loves. We Love.
Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos.
Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
info@felcaustin.org
512.478.1933 church
512.478.5424 cdc
www.felcaustin.org

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—a sanctuary church body in the United States