

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 10 AM
Word & Eucharist | Onsite & Online**



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

3001 Whitis Avenue
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Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church & Child Development Center (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are 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.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our theology, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

FELC is 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. For more on our welcome and life, visit www.felcaustin.org.

When we gather in the **Chapel of the Saints**, we gather as the saints of God in prayer, worship, and community. We gather with the saints of the past that we remember in various ways: the names engraved on the Columbarium, the Cloud of Witnesses mobile hanging in the Chapel containing the names of all who have died at FELC since 1936, and the icons displayed on the walls that remind us of people who inspire our faith and action today. The icons in the Chapel, by artist Kelly Latimore, are diverse saints, ancient and contemporary, and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each.

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews and chairs are available from an usher in the narthex.

We acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

✝ GATHERING ✝

This Sunday is called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in the gospel story. The risen Christ is abundant life now. Christ anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the waters of our baptism. Each Sunday Christ spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We live as signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care in all creation. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Paschal candle is a central symbol in the church’s worship life. The paschal candle, lit at baptisms, confirmations, renewals, funerals, and throughout the Easter season, shines with the light of Christ’s resurrection, reminding all that we have new life in God’s love.

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

from Ezekiel 34: 7-10

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, receive the word of the Lord: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and, because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord God: I will hold the shepherds accountable for my sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves first. I will rescue my sheep, so that they may not be food for the shepherds, but may live in my abundance.

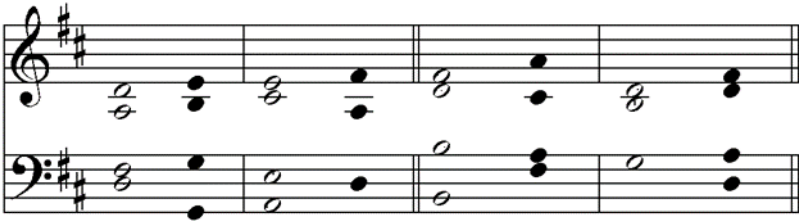
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

At sound of the singing bowls, we stand, as able, and turn to face the main entrance of the nave.

Psalm in Procession

Psalm 23 Anglican chant; translation: Bobby McFerrin, b. 1950



The Lord God is my Shepherd, I have | all I need,
She makes me lie down | in green meadows.
Beside the still waters, | She will lead.
She restores my soul, She | rights my wrongs.

**She leads me in a path | of good things,
And fills my | heart with songs.
Even though I walk through a dark and | dreary land,
There is nothing | that can shake me.**

**She has said She won't forsake me, I'm | in her hand.
She sets a table before me in the presence | of my foes.
She anoints my | head with oil,
and my cup | overflows.**

**Surely goodness and kindness will | follow me,
All the days | of my life,
And I will live | in her house,
Forever | and forever.**

**Glory be to our Mother | and Daughter
and to the Holy | of Holies.
As it was in the | beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world with out end. | Amen.**

“This 23rd Psalm is dedicated to my mother, Sara (1924-2019). She was the driving force in my religious and spiritual education, and I have so many memories of her singing in church. But I wrote it because I'd been reading the Bible one morning, and I was thinking about God's unconditional love, about how we crave it but have so much trouble believing we can trust it, and how we can't fully understand it. And then I left my reading and spent time with my wife and our children. Watching her with them, the way she loved them, I realized one of the ways we're shown a glimpse of how God loves us is through our mothers. They can cherish our spirits, they can demand that we become our best selves, and they can take care of us.”

-Bobby McFerrin

Easter Greeting

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

The love and grace of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you know us by name, and you lead us to safety through the valleys of suffering, violence, and even death. Guide us by the voice and ways of Jesus. May we live in your abundance now, confident of the joyous feast in your eternal home; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✝ WORD ✝

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Children and adults are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

We stand as we welcome Christ in the Good News. We turn to face the cross in procession.

Gospel Acclamation In Procession



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



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

Text: Traditional

Music: SYRIAN HALLELUJAH, Syrian traditional

Verse: Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.* I know my own and my | own know me. John 1:14

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:]¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

We sing the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon

We remain seated to sing.

Hymn of the Day

With God as Our Friend



1 With God as our friend, with his Spir - it and Word,
2 In per - il - ous days, filled with storms and with fright,
3 O Shep - herd, a - bide with us, care for us still,



all shar - ing to - geth - er the feast of the Lord,
a band march - es on through thick gloom toward the light.
and lead us and guide us and teach us your will,



we face with as - sur - ance the dawn of each day
Not man - y, nor might - y, dis - owned by the world,
un - til in your heav - en - ly fold we shall sing



and fol - low the shep - herd; and fol - low the shep - herd,
they fol - low their lead - er; they fol - low their lead - er,
our thanks and our prais - es; our thanks and our prais - es,



whose voice we have heard and whose will we o - bey.
in con - fi - dent faith, with their ban - ners un - furled.
to God and the Lamb, our re - deem - er and king.

Text: Carl O. Rosenius, 1816–1868; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: ACK, SALIGA STUNDER, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

Prayer & Meditation

We invite a time of quiet for your prayers to God for the earth; the nations; the poor, ill, oppressed, lonely, unhoused, homebound, imprisoned, bereaved, and joyful; for justice and mercy; for the communities where we live, worship, play, and work; for ourselves, our loved ones and our enemies; & for the sorrows, thanksgivings, and hopes we bring today. A prayer list is found on page 14.

The choir will offer an anthem during prayer time.

Anthem

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Music: C. Hylton Stewart, 1884-1932; Text: King James Version, 1611, with Gloria Patri

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

✝MEAL✝

Birthday Blessing

Gracious God, our times are in your care. **Bless your people as they live another year of grace. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and joy, and strengthen their trust in your abiding goodness. Amen.**

Stewardship Ministry Moment | Serve

Welcome to Communion & Offering

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

We stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing.

Offering Song

Strengthen for Service, Lord



1 Strength-en for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly things have tak - en;
2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of all de - cep - tion;
3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er lured to wan - der;



and let the ears that heard your word to false-hood nev - er wak - en.
keep bright the eyes that saw your love and sharp-en their per-cep - tion.
but lead the faith - ful nour-ished here to jour - ney on in splen-dor.

Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, adapt.
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune

Offering Prayer

All things come from you, O God, **and we give back to you the gifts that come from you.**
Welcome us here, gracious God, as we meet Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Joel Martinson, b. 1960



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 . . . join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



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, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for all.

In the night in which he was given to death . . .

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

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

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

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the new life of Christ.

Through Christ, † with Christ, in Christ all glory and honor is yours, gracious God, with the Holy Spirit, in the church and in the world, both now and forever. **AMEN!**

Gathered together in resurrection love, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Be seated.

Song of Response

Text: based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Music: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960



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.

Invitation to Communion & Blessing

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating onsite, ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. Then, return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

Communion Music

Let Your Peace Reign Upon Us



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam,
Let your peace rain up - on us, O liv - ing God of . . . peace.



ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.
Let your peace rain up - on us, Lord, fill our hearts . . with your peace.

Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: YARABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional

English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Communion Music

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us | ELW 789

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

We remain seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Living God, thank you for making your home with us in this holy meal. Empowered by the Spirit, may we wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

✝ SENDING ✝

Prayer for Service in the World

Stewardship Theme in April: Serve

Draw Christ's church together, O God, **into one great company of servants. Lead us to follow Jesus, our teacher, into every place of life, together serving Christ's mission in the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you send us. Amen.**

God's Blessing

based on Song of Blessing, by Sara Groves

May God give us eyes to see all that is good, and the strength and courage for anything.
May God give us ears to hear God's loving voice speaking all around us and deep inside us.
May the blessing of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, continue with us, now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! | ELW 385

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615

Dismissal to Mission

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

Go in peace to love and serve in newness of life! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, music, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries. To subscribe to a weekly email Newsletter or connect with the staff or ministry leaders, contact office@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

FELC, in thanksgiving for the 37 year witness on April 24 of being a Reconciling in Christ congregation;
places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;
the people of Iran & the United States military engaged in conflict;
FELC Stewardship Committee;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace & equity;
all who mourn, grieve, and lament;
Carl Brockman & Mary Robbins, as Carl heals from health challenges;
benevolence ministry partners and their leaders: Micah 6 Food Ministries,
LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella;
citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Claudia Barlow
Assisting Minister	Gwen Flory
Building Open/Close	Betsy Appleton
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Faith Formation	LaRu Woody, Tammie Danielson, Debbie el-Bathy
Lector	Monica Lund
Livestream Minister	J.P. Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre; Oliver Rajamani Cantor Bryan Rust
Hospitality Hosts	Merrily Porter, leader
Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pastor Katie Rodie
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

UT REPERTORY CHORUS IN CONCERT | MONDAY, APRIL 27

Hear Repertory Chorus on Monday, April 27, 8:00 PM at FELC for their final performance of the academic year. Free admission. FELC partners with UT's Butler School of Music to provide a laboratory, rehearsal, and venue experience for these professional, educational vocal leaders.

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