Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday Word & Eucharist May 11, 2025 | 10 AM | Onsite &Online





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

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.

A diversity of music is an important part of our witness, including the acoustics of our nave. As we grow our music ministry, we embark on a restoration campaign for our valued and aged pipe organ.

The Holy Spirit gathers us into community.

This Sunday, as we approach halfway through the great 50 days of Easter joy, we are reminded that the gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. In the bible story it was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision of John. It is true for us and for all: "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." The Good Shepherd loves and cares for all.

Gathering Music

At the introduction to the gathering song, the assembly stands, as willing and able

Gathering Song

The Day of Resurrection! | ELW 361

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c.754; tr. John Mason Neale, (1818-1866) alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent

Greeting

The grace of Jesus our risen Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you welcome us all and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, and one with your whole creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Welcome to Community

If this is one of your first times with First English, please use this QR code. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect more.



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God speaks in scripture, preaching, song, silence, and prayer.

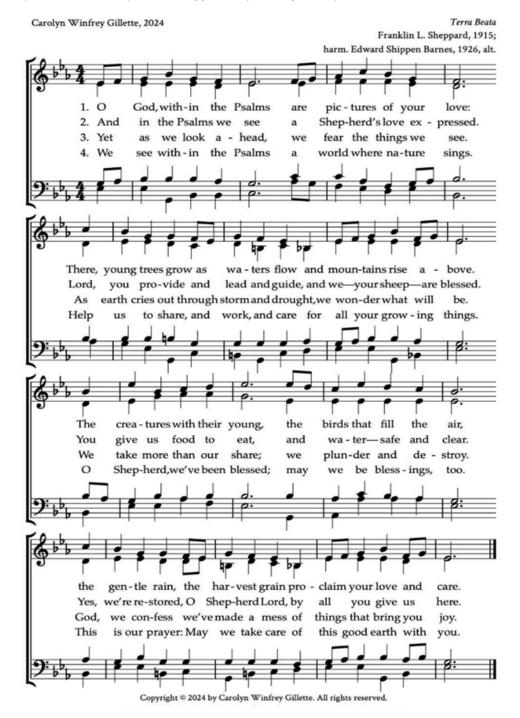
First Reading Acts 9:36-43

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

The assembly remains seated.

This hymn reflects the themes of Psalm 23, appointed for today, and of creation care.



Children and families are invited to gather near the baptismal font.

Faith of a Child & Spirit Space

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your beautiful world, for Jesus' love, for church friends and family, and for making me, me. Amen.

We welcome children with a Spirit Space in the North Transept for gentle play and reading, including a rug, floor pillows, soft blocks, and coloring supplies. Children and adults can engage the Spirit Space throughout the liturgy. We welcome children by encouraging them and celebrating the joy and livelihood they offer in life and throughout the liturgy and space.

Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

The assembly may stand as we welcome Christ in the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation



Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana

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

Holy Gospel John 10:22-30

²² At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

The assembly may stand.

Hymn of the Day

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us | ELW 789

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847) Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm the baptismal faith of the whole church.

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, \pm and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

After each intercession: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Sharing the Peace

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

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to God's table for Eucharist.

The assembly return to their places.

God feeds and blesses us with the presence of the risen Christ.

+MEAL+

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 our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

Offering Music

Comfort, O Lord, the Soul of Thy Servant Text: Psalm 86:4; Music: William Crotch (1775-1847)

The assembly may stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing.

Offering Song

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth | ELW 735

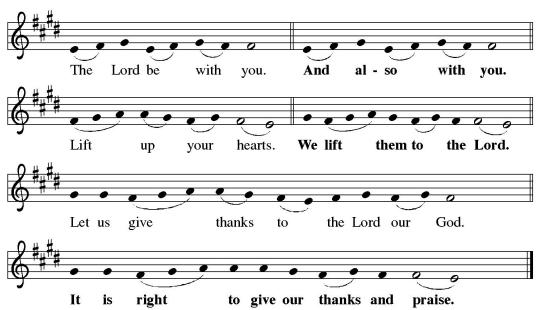
Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-c. 1413 Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you gather us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal. Empower us to live as your risen body. Amen.

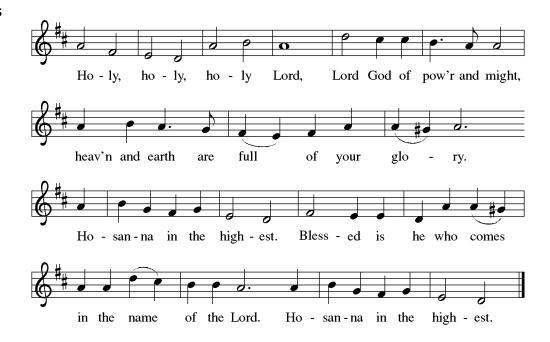
Great Thanksgiving

Ronald Nelson (1927-2014)



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



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.

Let us proclaim 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.

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 into one by the Holy Spirit, 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

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 dia.
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.

Breaking the Bread

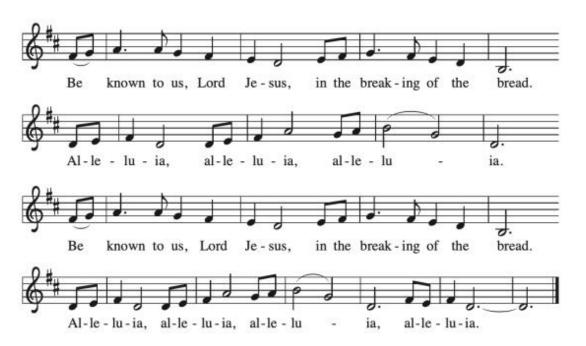
Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

Song of Response

text: based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; music: Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)



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

The assembly remains 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.**

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God blesses us and sends us in mission and service with the world.

Community Invitations & Announcements

The assembly may stand.

Prayer for Courage

Let us pray together.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Blessing

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 Hymn

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing | ELW 544

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt (1902-1983) alt

Music: ALLES ISTAN GOTTES GEGEN, Johann Lohner (1645-1705) adapt.

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!

Hospitality

+ OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS. +

WELCOME PASTOR KATIE RODE

On May 4 the congregation voted to call the Rev. Katie Rode as the sixth pastor of FELC! Pastor Katie accepted the call, and her first Sunday to preside and preach will be June 15, with a festive hospitality following worship. We welcome Pastor Katie and her family in God's mission we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S MUSIC LEADER | MARTI AHERN

It always our joy to welcome Marti Ahern. Marti studied at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, is a prolific pianist in the Austin area, a private music teacher, and she serves as artistic director of the Austin Chamber Ensemble. Cantor Bryan Rust is away and will return to worship on Sunday, May 25.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | MAY 11

Ministers All the People of God

Altar Care Server Nancy Neuse

Assisting Minister Leigh Northcutt-Benson Building Open/Close Charlie Boas, Mari Ward

Faith Formation Leaders Anne Wiebe (adults); LaRu Woody (children)

Lector LaRu Woody

Livestream Minister J.P. Northcutt-Benson Music Ministers FELC Choir; Marti Ahern

Presiding & Preaching The Rev. Jennifer Obermueller

Usher Terry Porter

MICAH 6 YOUTH DROP IN CENTER UPDATE

The Micah 6 Youth Drop In Center has an urgent need for the following:

- Men's underwear, t shirts, and shorts (size L, XL)
- Men's and Women's shoes
- Children's clothing
- Phone chargers

Gently used clothing is accepted. Affordable options are available at Target, Costco, Walmart, and Sam's Club. Contact Micah 6 treasurer, Ryan Valentine, Ryan.valentine@gmail.com, regarding reimbursement for these or other Micah 6 purchases. Receipts are required.

Sign up to volunteer at the Micah 6 Food pantry at micah6austin.org. Contact Andy MacLaren, andymaclaren@cs.com,512-947-4186, for information regarding Micah 6 ministries. Thanks for your continued support!

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

the citizens, leaders, immigrants, & refugees of the United States; the places of war, recovery, oppression, disaster, & conflict; those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, & equity; all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, & quality care, & for those who offer it; all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs; people of various faith traditions, & people of goodwill; the whole church throughout the world; the Roman Catholic Church; FELC congregation, council, CDC board, staff, CDC families, & our mission & ministry; all mothers & those who live in mothering care; Pastor Katie Rode & her family, in thanksgiving, & as they transition to FELC; the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran in Comfort, TX, as Pastor Katie ends her call; benevolence ministry partner Micah 6 Food Ministries & executive director Barry Smith; benevolence ministry partner LuMin, & Pastor Bradley Fuerst; benevolence ministry partner Global Refuge, & CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah; benevolence ministry partner Casa Marianella, & Co-directors Jennifer Long & Patti McCabe; Marian Klumpp, in nursing care; Sarah Roberts, in thanksgiving for being cancer free & on maintenance treatment; Fred and Sonia Ralls Dalbey, friends of Dave and Nancy Neuse, upon Fred's rapid decline in health; Freddie Bates, Jr., brother of Paulette Clemons, in the hospital; all who are homebound: all who have died;

The FELC Prayer Circle gathers faithfully to offer prayer. Contact: bschutz@sbcglobal.net.

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all in any need & thanksgiving.

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Treasurer vacant

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Learning Ministry: Leigh Northcutt-Benson

Betsy Appleton

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Cantor Bryan Rust

cantor@felcaustin.org

Child Development Center Director

Dr. Paulette Clemons

director@firstenglishcdc.org

CDC Staff

Tertia Bonner, Charity Douglas Lauren Eichhorn, William Matthews Kambrea Richardson, Alexis Tovar Loretta Wall, Magdalena Gonzalez

Shelby Williams

Church Office Administrator

Dawn Wetzel

office@felcaustin.org

Custodial Care

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FELCDC Bookkeeper

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Call Committee

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Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries, and the CDC.

To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter, contact office@felcaustin.org.