Fifth Sunday of Easter Word & Eucharist May 18, 2025 | 10 AM Onsite & Online





God Loves. We Love.

Everyone!

Dios Ama. Amamos.

Todos!

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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.

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.

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. God has made new people of us; it takes a whole season; it takes a whole lifetime. Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Gathering Music

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

Gathering Song

Praise the Lord! O Heavens! | ELW 823

Text: Foundling Hospital Collection, London, 1796 Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydin (1732-1809)

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

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions are wasteful. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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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First Reading Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

The assembly remains seated and sings the psalm responsively.



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.
- ² Praise the Lord | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
- ³ Praise the Lord [|] sun and moon; sing praise all you [|] shining stars.
- ⁴ Praise the Lord heav- en of heavens, and you waters a- bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name [|] of the Lord, who commanded and they [|] were created,
- ⁶ who made them stand fast forev- er and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the Lord [|] from the earth, you sea monsters [|] and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail snow and fog, tempestuous wind do- ing God's will;
- ⁹ mountains [|] and all hills, fruit trees [|] and all cedars;
- wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth [|] and all peoples, princes and all rulers [|] of the world;
- ¹² young [|] men and maidens, old and [|] young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name [|] of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over [|] earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people, and praise for all [|] faithful servants, the children of Israel who are near the Lord. [|] Hallelujah!

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 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Sermon

The assembly may stand.

Hymn of the Day

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | ELW 631

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887)

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.

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.

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Welcome to Communion & Offering

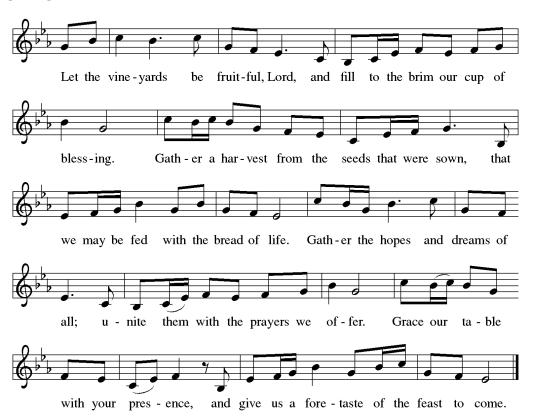
We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

Offering Music Marti Ahern

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

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards Ronald Nelson (1927-2014)

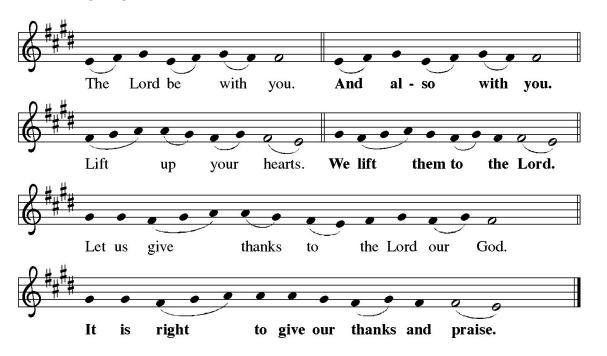


Offering Prayer

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.

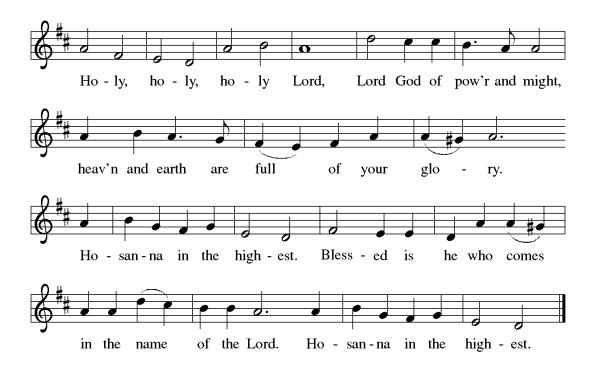
Great Thanksgiving

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!**

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

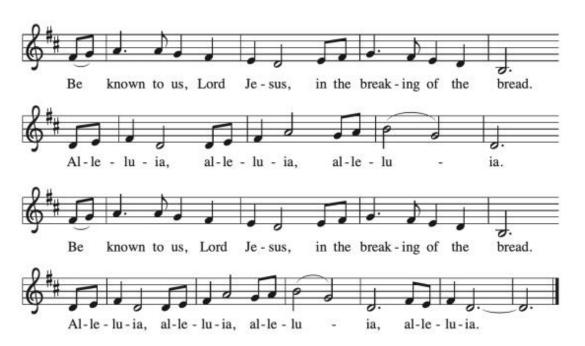
Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us.

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

Christ Is Alive! Let Christian's Sing | ELW 389

Text: Brian A. Wren b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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's 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 18

Ministers All the People of God Altar Care Server Barbara Wiederaenders

Assisting Minister Shannon Aguirre

Building Open/Close Leigh Northcutt-Benson, Ben Rode

Lector Anne Wiebe

Livestream Minister J.P. Northcutt-Benson

Music Minister Marti Ahern

Presiding & Preaching The Rev. Robert Karli

Usher Terry Porter

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.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH CAREGIVER'S CIRCLE | MAY 26

Caregiver's Circle meets monthly on the 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm via Zoom. If you have accepted the responsibility to assist another adult with the activities of daily living, you are a "caregiver." You may live together or apart, but another person depends on you in an important way. Caregiving can be very isolating at times. Motivated by love, it can nevertheless lead to moments of resentment and dismay. But it is also rewarding, knowing that God is enabling you to love, sometimes sacrificially. You deserve an opportunity to share in a circle of encouragement.

At every Caregiver Circle meeting, there is time for each person to share as much or as little as desired, hear about available resources, share ideas, and make time for prayer and meditation. Participants pledge strict confidentiality to one another. The facilitator, Barbara Wiederaenders, has 19 years of experience facilitating caregiver support groups.

The next meeting is Monday, May 26, 7-8:30 pm. Contact Barbara Wiederaenders, <u>bwiederaenders@att.net</u> to receive the link to the meeting. Join us!

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, <u>Ryan.valentine@gmail.com</u>, 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; Pope Leo XIV in his new pastoral ministry, & the Roman Catholic Church; FELC congregation, council, CDC board, staff, CDC families, & our mission & ministry; 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 traveling, for safe and joyful experience & homecoming; all who are homebound; all who have died: all in any need & thanksgiving.

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

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felcpresident@felcaustin.org

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Learning Ministry: Leigh Northcutt-Benson

Betsy Appleton

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Pastor Katie Rode (beginning June 9)

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

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Custodial Care

Teresa del Aguila & family

FELC Bookkeeper

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