

# The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor, Renewer of Society, & Martyr

January 26, 2026 | 10:00 am | Onsite & Online

Word & Eucharist



God Loves. We Love.

Everyone!

Dios Ama. Amamos.

Todos!

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512.478.1933 church

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THIS MEANS YOU.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. 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 adoration, 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](http://www.felcaustin.org).

As we gather, 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.

**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, are available from an usher.

We remember the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor, renewer of society, and martyr, born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta. An American prophet of justice among races and nations, Pastor King was an ordained minister in the Baptist tradition, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Dr. King was assassinated April 4, 1968 in Memphis. In the Sunday liturgy, all the hymns and some of the music we offer Dr. King sang often. They are considered his “favorites” where he found the power and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The scripture texts we proclaim are appointed and amended for renewers of society. The primary color for this commemoration is red/scarlet, reminding us of the power of the Holy Spirit and the bloodshed of martyrs.

Spirit Space: Children and families are invited to a Spirit Space in the North Transept (near the front of the sanctuary), with a rug, floor pillows, and other supplies. Children and adults may engage in the worship service and stay together in the Spirit Space. We welcome the joy and curiosity children offer.

### Gathering Music

***He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*** Spiritual

*Hymns and Songs are found in the red worship book.*

*We stand, as able.*

### Gathering Song

***Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* | ELW 623**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

### Greeting & Prayer of the Day

Arise, shine, for your light has come. **And the glory of the Lord is revealed!**

Where can we go from your Spirit? **Where can we flee from your presence?**

Surely the darkness will cover us, and the light around us turn to night.

**Darkness is not dark to you, O God; the night is as bright as the day;**

**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

God dwells with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last. Grant that Christ's church, following the example of Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and secure for all your children the blessed liberty of freedom and peace; 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 Worship & 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.



## ✝ WORD ✝

### Anthem

*Hear My Prayer* Moses Hogan, 1957-2003

Oh Lord, please hear my prayer In the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory,  
Oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer.  
Oh Lord, please hear my prayer keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory,  
Oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer  
When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know that I am bound for glory  
And to hear you say, "Well done."  
Done with sin and sorrow. Have mercy. Amen.

### First Reading

**Amos 5:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them,  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup> Take away  
from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### A Time of Wonder & Wisdom

### Second Reading

**Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.”<sup>20</sup> Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**                      *The People Who Walked in Darkness* Richard Hillert (1923-2010)

The peo - ple who walked in  
dark - ness have seen a great light. Al - le - lu - ia.  
The light has shined on the na - tions who live in the shad-ow of  
death A - rise, be clothed in light. Your light has come.  
Al - le - lu - ia. Though dark-ness cov - ers the earth, the  
Lord will shine up - on you. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel is announced, responding with: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Holy Gospel

**Luke 6:20-36**

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

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

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

***Precious Lord, Take My Hand* | ELW 773**

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

This hymn was known as Dr. King’s most beloved, and was often sung at rallies. At his request, it was sung by Mahalia Jackson at his funeral on April 9, 1968 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where Martin was baptized, confirmed, ordained, and served as co-pastor with his father until his death.

*We incorporate our communal and personal intercessions through the text of this anthem.*

*A prayer list is found on page 14.*

## **Anthem**

Dear blessed creator, dear mother, dear Savior,  
Dear father, dear brother, dear holy other,  
Dear sibling, dear baby, dear patiently waiting,  
Dear sad and confused, dear stuck and abused.

Dear end of your rope, dear worn out and broke,  
Dear go it alone, dear running from home,  
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family,  
Dear jaded and quiet, dear tough and defiant.

I pray that I'm heard, and I pray that this works.

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword  
Against you and your heart,  
Against you and your word,  
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare of sorts  
That it might break you open  
It might help you grow

I pray that your body gets all that it needs  
And if you don't want healing  
I just pray for peace  
I pray that your burden gets lighter each day  
I pray the mean voice in your head goes away

I pray that you honor the grief as it comes.  
I pray you can feel all the life in your lungs  
I pray that if you go all day being brave.  
That you can go home, go to bed feeling safe  
I pray you're forgiven. I pray you forgive.  
I pray you set boundaries and openly live.  
I pray that you feel you are worth never leaving.  
I pray that you know I will always believe you.

I pray that you're heard, and I pray that this works.

## **Plowshare Prayer** Spencer LaJoyce

Amen on behalf of the last and the least,  
On behalf of the anxious, depressed and unseen.  
Amen for the workers, the hungry, the houseless,  
Amen for the lonely and recently spouseless,

Amen for the queers and their closeted peers,  
Amen for the bullied who hold in their tears,  
Amen for the mothers of little Black sons,  
Amen for the kids who grow up scared of guns,

Amen for the addicts, ashamed and hungover,  
Amen for the calloused, the wisened, the sober,  
Amen for ones who want life to be over,  
Amen for the leaders who lose their composure,

And amen for the parents who just lost their baby,  
Amen for chronically ill and disabled,  
Amen for the children down at the border,  
Amen for the victims of our law and order.

I pray that you're heard, and I pray that this works.

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword,  
Against you and your heart,  
Against you and your word,  
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare of sorts.

## Sharing the Peace

May 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 Christ's table for Eucharist.

*Following the peace, please be seated.*

## ✙ MEAL ✙

### Birthday Blessing

Gracious God, our times are in your care. **Bless your people as they live another year of grace. May they grow in wisdom and joy, and strengthen their trust in your abiding goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### 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](http://www.felcaustin.org/information/giving).*

*The assembly may stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and the meal is prepared.*

### Offering Song

**How Great Thou Art | ELW 856, stanzas 1 & 4**

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. And adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

### Offering Prayer

Holy and Radiant God, Sovereign of the universe, receive the gifts we bring:  
our selves, our time, and our possessions.

**Unite us as Christ's body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy. Amen.**



## Great Thanksgiving

Richard Hillert (1923-2010)

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 . . . and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Radiant God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea;  
within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God!**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day;  
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God!**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God!**

That night in which Jesus was at table, He loved his disciples, and he loved them to the  
end, and he took bread, and gave thanks to the Father; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This  
cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Holy and Life-Giving Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;  
among all people; throughout the world. All praise, blessing, and thanks to you, Holy and  
Radiant God, in Jesus Christ, † by the presence of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to follow your Son as we pray:

**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.**

## Breaking the Bread

The word is made flesh and dwells among us. **O come, let us adore him.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.

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

***Just a Closer Walk With Thee* | ELW 697**

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

*The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.*

## Prayer after Communion

Holy and Radiant God, Sovereign of the universe, thank you for the gift of Jesus in his body, blood, and blessing. Transform us by your Spirit as we offer our gifts and skills to be Christ's light, for he lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

## ✝ SENDING ✝

### Community Announcements & Invitations

*The assembly stands.*

### God's Blessing

God the Creator who delights in us, Jesus the Savior who is born in us,  
✝ and the lifegiving Spirit who shines in us, continue with us, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Song

***This Little Light of Mine* | ELW 677**

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

### Dismissal

Be at peace. Shine with the light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

### Hospitality & Potluck for Annual Meeting

*Join together in the Fellowship Hall.*

## ✝ OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS ✝

# WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to declare the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ through proclamation, teaching, worship, and a caring ministry to all people. Visit [felcaustin.org](http://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](mailto:office@felcaustin.org).

## MINISTERS SERVING IN LITURGY | SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Ministers	All God’s People
Altar Care	Claudia Barlow
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Building Open/Close	Ben Rode, Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Lector	JD Aguirre
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust Nikki Northcutt, Leigh Northcutt-Benson, Ajit D’Sa, guitar;
Presiding Minister	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

## FELC ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING | TODAY | NOON

The annual meeting of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held today at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

## AUSTIN MARATHON | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

This annual event typically affects the route to First English the morning of February 15. Refer to the marathon website for a course map, road closures, and other traffic information: [youraustinmarathon.com](http://youraustinmarathon.com).

# PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

**As a community of faith, we pray for:**

FELC congregation, council, & our mission & ministry;  
benevolence ministry partners and their leaders: Micah 6 Food Ministries,  
LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella;  
the whole church & church leaders throughout the world;  
citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States;  
places of violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;  
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;  
all who are homebound;  
the people of Venezuela in this time of turmoil for their nation;  
Larry Collmann as he heals from surgery;  
Teresa del Aguila, as she recovers from knee replacement surgery;  
family and friends of Stan Cravatt at the completion of his baptismal journey;  
Emily Schottmann, undergoing cancer treatment;  
strength & a spirit of justice for all who have worked & continue to support peacemaking;  
all in any need & thanksgiving.

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