

February 1, 2026
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Word & Eucharist | 10:00 am
Onsite & Online



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

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
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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.

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.

Who are the blessed ones of God? For the biblical prophet Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for relationship with God and neighbor. In baptism, disciples of Jesus find our blessed identity and calling for living and serving.

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

Hymns and Songs are found in the red worship book.

We stand, as able.

Gathering Song

As We Gather at Your Table | ELW 522

Music: IN BABILON, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;
arr Julius Rontgen, 1855-1932 Text: Carl P. Draw, Jr., b. 1944

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of the Lord is revealed!

The Lord is my light and my salvation,
of whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of life,
of whom then shall I be afraid?

God dwells with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the humble in life. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may experience the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, 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

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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

The psalm is chanted responsively.



¹ Lord who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

A Time of Wonder & Wisdom

We welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Richard Hillert



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Sermon

We stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day

Rise Up, O Saints of God | ELW 669

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Prayers of Intercession

Intercession response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Everyone returns to their places.

✚ 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

Blest are the Pure in Heart

Text: John Keble, 1792-1866; H. Walford Davies, 1869-1941

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God:
The secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.
Still to the lowly soul He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.

We stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and the meal is prepared.

Offering Song

For the Fruit of All Creation | ELW 679

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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.**

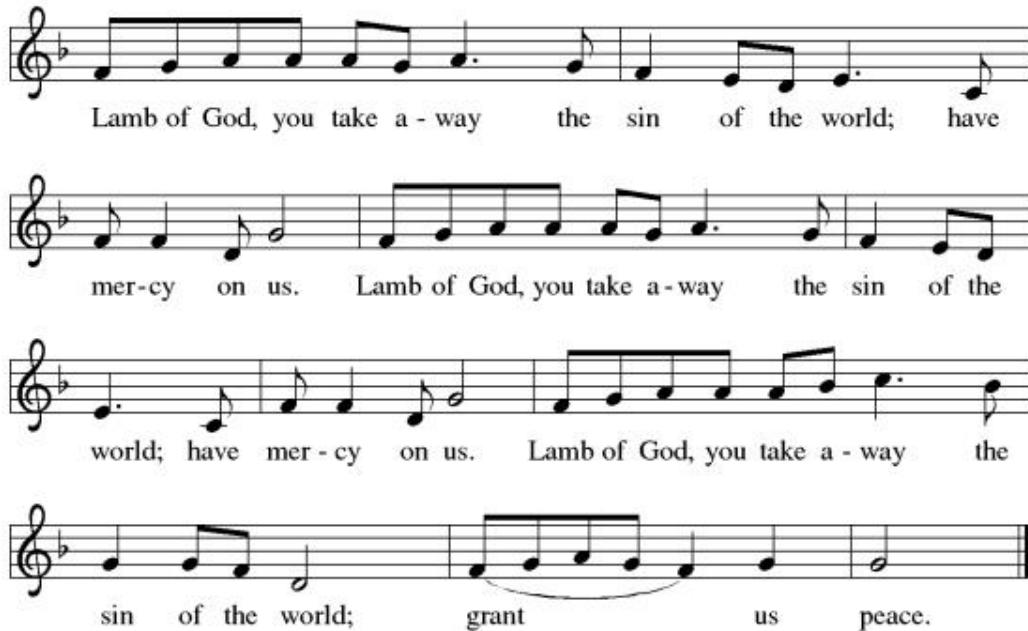
Breaking the Bread

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

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
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

O Master, Let Me Walk with You | ELW 818

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

We remain 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 ✚

Announcements

We stand, as able.

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

The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve | ELW 551

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Dismissal

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

Hospitality

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 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.

MINISTERS SERVING IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Ministers	All God's People
Altar Care	Nancy Neuse
Assisting Minister	Nikki Northcutt
Building Open/Close	LaRu Woody, Mari Ward
Lector	Trish Karli
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Mari Ward, piano
Presiding Minister	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter

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ST. OLAF CHOIR CONCERT | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 | 7 PM

St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th Street. Tickets are \$40 and \$10 for all students, available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or 800-363-5487. For more than a century, the St. Olaf Choir from Northfield, Minnesota, has set the gold standard for choral singing, performing for millions around the world. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the choir, from one of the ELCA colleges, is renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound.

AUSTIN MARATHON | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

This annual event typically affects the route to First English the morning of February 15. Refer to youraustinmarathon.com for a course map, road closures, and other event information.

FASTNACHT PANCAKES AND TALENT SHOW | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 6 PM

Everyone is welcome to Fastnacht, the night before the Lenten fast begins on Ash Wednesday. The Fellowship Hall will be filled with the smell of pancakes, sausages and Heidi Goebel's aebleskivers! Bring your favorite pancake topping to share. Following supper, we'll enjoy the always-wonderful Talent Show. We've had stand-up comedy, instrumental music, skits, magic acts, songs, recitations and demonstrations of all kinds by people of all ages. If you can help in any way, contact Randy Baden, 512 775-8435. Invite friends and neighbors! Hope to see you there!

ASH WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 18 | 7 PM

The season of Lent begins with this solemn day of repentance and receiving ashes as a sign of mortality and humility. We are invited to begin the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, almsgiving – works of love. This year we will gather at **7:00 pm onsite and livestream on YouTube**. The liturgy includes confession and absolution, imposition of ashes, holy communion, and special music. Returning to God's mercy and grace, we make our way through Lent toward the joy of Easter.

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;
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;
Alex Jeffery Pretti and all who love and grieve him;
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.

FELC LEADERSHIP

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President LaRu Woody
felcpresident@felcaustin.org
Vice President Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Secretary Nancy Baden
Treasurer Joe Cain
Financial Secretary Gwen Flory
Elijah Aguirre
Betsy Appleton
Paul Barlow
Charlie Boas
Margaret Bruesch
Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Kristin Mondy
Benjamin Rode
Mari Ward

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Custodial Care
Teresa del Aguila & family
FELC Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

TEAM LEADERS

Support Ministry
Terry Porter
Worship Ministry
Trish Karli
Learning Ministry
Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Stewardship
Erin McCracken

