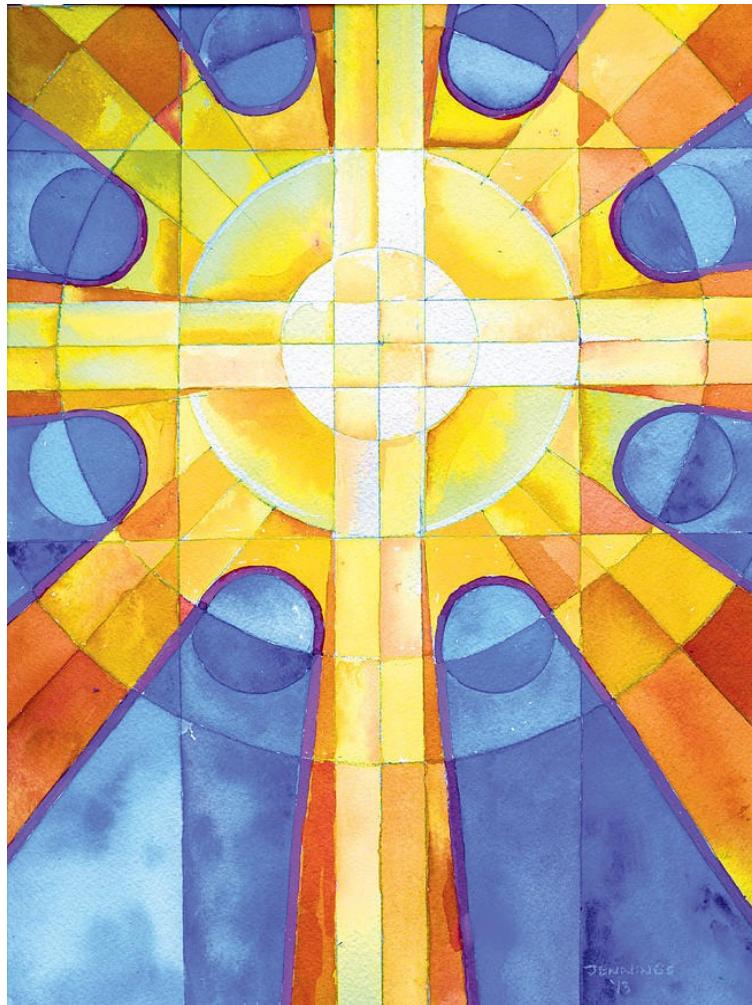


February 8, 2026  
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Word & Eucharist | 10:00 am | Onsite & Online



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

3001 Whitis Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78705  
[info@felcaustin.org](mailto:info@felcaustin.org)  
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.

Light shines in the darkness, the psalmist sings. The biblical prophet Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. We are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

**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

### **Word of God, Come Down on Earth | ELW 510**

Music: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Text: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

## 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

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and strength to do them; through 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

Isaiah 58:1-9a

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. <sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

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

The psalm is chanted responsively.



<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the Lord  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.

<sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor and their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.

A Time of Wonder & Wisdom

We welcome Christ in the gospel.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia** Richard Hillert



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

## Holy Gospel

**Matthew 5:13-20**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

## Sermon

We stand, as able.

## Hymn of the Day

## Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies | ELW 553

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: RATISBON, J.G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

## 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.**

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

## Offering Music

### Lord, I Trust Thee

Text: Barthold Brockes, 1680-1747

Music: G.F. Handel, 1685-1759

Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee. Ah! Thou friend of all, restore me!  
On thy loving grace relying, for the bread of life I'm sighing.  
Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease, fill my heart with joy and endless peace.  
When the breath of life has left me, may my soul be blended with thee.

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

## Offering Song

## We Give Thee But Thine Own | ELW 686

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

## 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.**

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.

## Great Thanksgiving

Richard Hillert (1923-2010)

The Lord be with you. And also 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.**

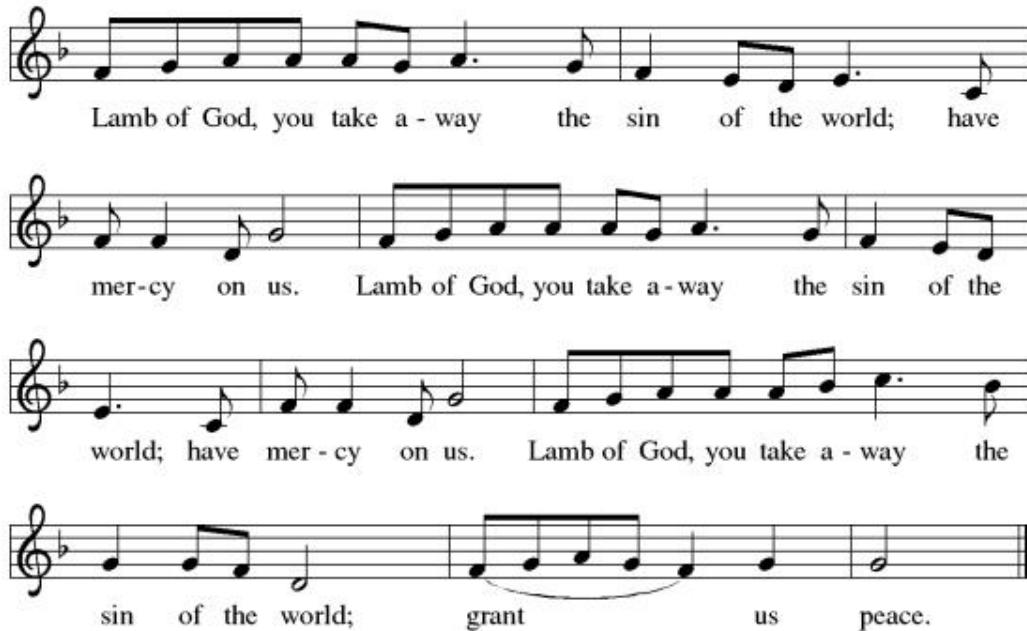
## Breaking the Bread

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  
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

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

**O Lord, Now Let Your Servant | ELW 313**

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt.

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

### 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](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 LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Ministers	All God's People
Altar Care	Teresa Ringness
Assisting Minister	Gwen Flory
Building Open/Close	Charlie Boas, Mari Ward
Lector	Fred Woody
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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## **AUSTIN MARATHON | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

This annual event typically affects the route to First English the morning of February 15. Race day road closures will begin at 2 AM and may continue along the route as late as 3 PM, depending upon location.

Visit <https://youraustinmarathon.com/traffic/> for a comprehensive traffic guide which provides location specific information on how to access sections of the city during the event.

## **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.

## **ANNUAL MEETING | RESCHEDULED | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | NOON**

Meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship for Hospitality and a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share as you are able. The meeting will begin at noon.

## **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 living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs;  
all who are homebound;  
Larry Collmann as he heals from surgery;  
Teresa del Aguila as she recovers from knee replacement surgery;  
Emily Schottmann undergoing cancer treatment;  
strength & a spirit of justice for all who have worked & continue to support peacemaking.

## **CRITICAL NEEDS FOR MICAH 6**

The following is needed for the youth drop in center, generally attended by adult males ages 25-40:

Jackets or hoodies L/XL/2XL  
Underwear L /2XL  
Sweat pants and sweat shirts XL / 2XL/ 3XL  
Colored t-shirts 2XL / 3XL  
Gloves  
Beanies  
Blankets

# FELC LEADERSHIP

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President LaRu Woody  
[felcpresident@felcaustin.org](mailto: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

## STAFF

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**Church Office Administrator**  
Dawn Wetzel  
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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

