

First English Lutheran Church
March 8, 2026 | Third Sunday in Lent
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
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.

First English Lutheran Church broadcasts its services and events and records them for distribution via the internet. Your attendance at a service or event constitutes your consent to be included in any filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including publicity. If you prefer to avoid being filmed, please participate from the back pews on the side aisles.

On the third Sunday in Lent we proclaim the gospel story where the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection toward Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us and all creation the life-giving water of God's mercy, forgiveness, and justice.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Lent 3, Year A

We offer responses and acclamations printed in bold. Hymns and Songs are found in the red worship book.

As everyone gathers, we are seated and chant the appointed psalm for today.

Gathering Psalm

Psalm 23



- ¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- ³ You restore my | soul O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff they | comfort me.**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

We stand, as able.

Hymn

As the Deer Runs to the River | ELW 331

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Confession & Forgiveness of Sin

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

God's mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us draw near to God who draws near to us in mercy, asking for a new mind and a new heart to love.

Quiet is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Richard Hillert, 1923-2010; Psalm 51:10-12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

God comes to you again and again, gifting you a new heart and a new spirit, and gathers you under wings of rest and peace. You are not alone. In the name of † Jesus, all your sin is truly forgiven. The Spirit of God journeys with us and teaches us how to live in love. **Amen.**

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit are with you now.

And also with you.

Lord Christ, you are the living water of mercy and justice. Come among us as you promised. By your gracious life and death, bring light into the darkness of life, and anoint us with your heart of love, for you live and reign with the Father 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 ✝

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, based on Romans 8:38-39



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

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

Because of the length of the gospel story, we are seated.

Holy Gospel

John 4:5-42

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.” ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

Sermon

We stand to sing.

Hymn of the Day

***I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* | ELW 611**

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

We are seated for prayer.

Prayer & Meditation

We stand, as able.

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

Jesus, My Sweet Pleasure (BWV 227)

Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; arr. J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677

Jesus, my sweet pleasure, perfect, joyful leisure, jewel bright and true:
how my heart has fretted, my desire so whetted, longing after you!
Lamb of God, my own betrothed, nothing in this life so moves me,
holds me gently, soothes me.

You provide my refuge from the driving deluge of the devil's band.
Let the tempter trail me, enemies assail me, Jesus is at hand!
When the rain of fear and pain, when the storms of hell beset me,
Jesus will protect me.

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

Offering Song

Let Us See Your Kindness

Rawn Harbor, b. 1947; Psalm 85: 9-10, 12

O LORD, let us see your kind - ness. O
LORD, let us see your truth. O LORD, let us see your
kind - ness. We place our trust in you.

Offering Prayer

All things come from you, O God, and we give back to you the gifts that come from you. Bless us, O Lord God, and all your gifts, which we receive and share from your bounty; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

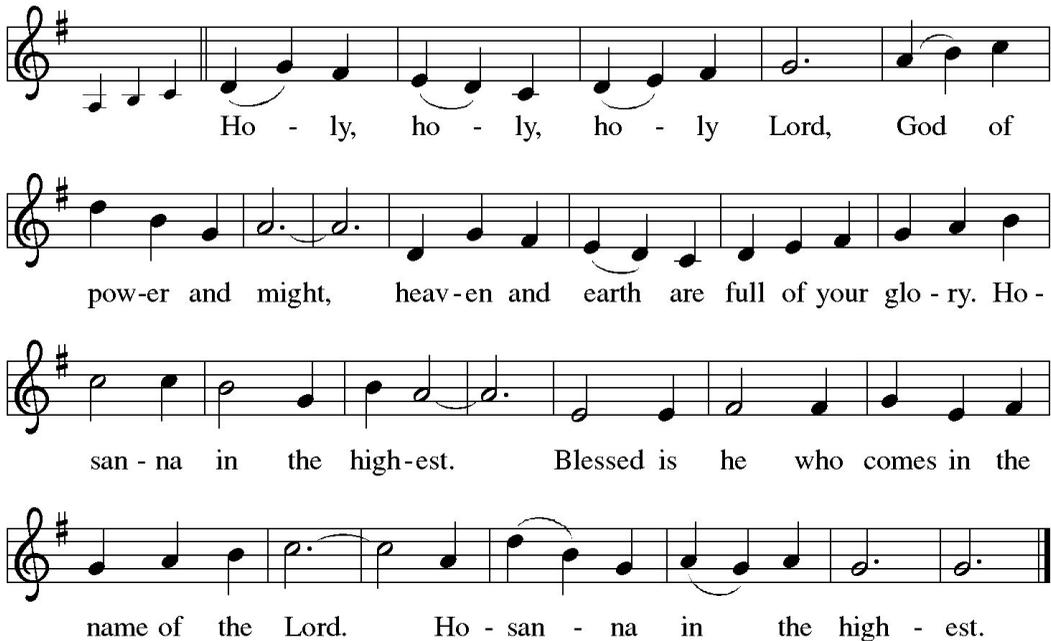
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You call your people to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift and invitation of baptism, we continue in the fullness of your grace; and so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful God . . . 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.

Merciful God, pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food and blessing, the body and blood of Jesus Christ; † to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in the church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

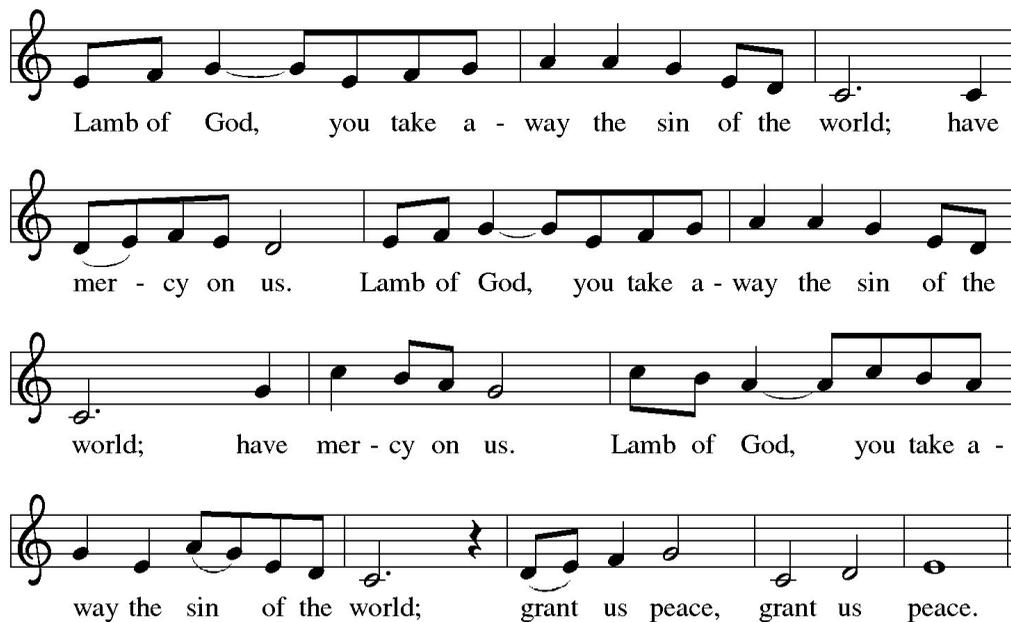
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread to be the body of Christ.

We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Be seated.



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, 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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me | ELW 623

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

We remain seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Dear Jesus, in this meal of grace you have blessed and nourished us with your real presence. We thank you, and we pray that we may make your life-giving hope known in a world of beauty and need. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

We stand as we receive God's blessing and protection.

God's Blessing

based on Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer | ELW 618

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

Dismissal to Mission

As we rest in the love of God, let us live and serve as Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Hospitality

Join together in the Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 | SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Ministers	All God's People
Altar Care	Nancy Neuse
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Building Open/Close	Charlie Boas
Lector	JD Aguirre
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	Women of the FELC Choir; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding Minister	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

All who mourn, grieve, lament, and sorrow;
Susan Morales, for God's peace and healing;
Leon Noren, for healing;
Monica Lund, for traveling mercies;
FELC congregation, council, & our mission & ministry;
ministries, leadership, and volunteers for Austin City Lutherans;
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 experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace & equity.

WORSHIP IN LENT

SUNDAYS IN LENT | MARCH 8, 15, 22

Faith Formation (9AM) Worship (10AM)
Hospitality (11:15AM)
Onsite & YouTube livestream

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT | MARCH 11, 18, 25 | 7 PM

A service of quiet reflection in the FELC sanctuary with the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer.
Onsite & YouTube livestream

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES DURING LENT

In the season of Lent, Pastor Katie shares some spiritual practices that can be nourishing in this time of repentance and returning to God:

Sabbath from Social Media - An intentional break or rest from that style of input to allow more focused time to return to God's intentions in your life daily.

Sacred Pause - A scheduled time each day for 10-15 minutes of prayer, meditation, or breathing practice focused on God's presence with you.

Intentional Listening - Hone your listening skills with family and friends with intention focused on hearing their words, the meaning within them, and where they might be sharing Good News or need to hear it.

Engage Creation - Return to God is visible and tangible in God's creation. Spend time in God's creation.

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