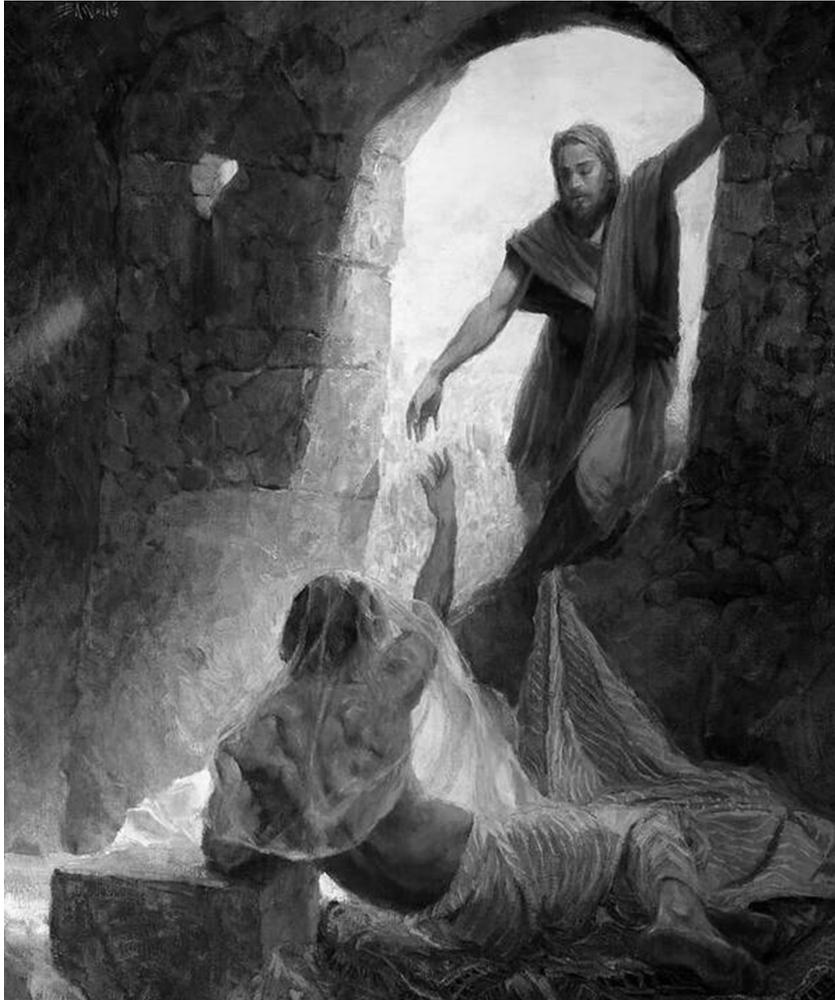


First English Lutheran Church
March 22, 2026 | 10:00 am | Onsite & Online
Fifth Sunday in Lent | Word & Eucharist



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.

We approach the days of the passion of our Lord. In the gospel story for the fifth Sunday in Lent, Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The Hebrew prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of war, violence, and death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. God is very near, and as near as our breath - and even beyond our breathing. We are never alone.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Lent 5, 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 130



1 Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O Lord;

2 **O Lord | hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

3 If you were to keep watch | over sin,

O Lord | who could stand?

4 **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared.

5 I wait for you O Lord; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

6 **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

7 O my people, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.

8 **For the Lord shall | redeem the people,**

from | all our sin.

We stand, as able, to sing.

Hymn

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service | ELW 712, stanzas 1,2,3

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

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.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin, death, and the devil. Continue to breathe in us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you and our neighbors; 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

Keep Silence

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 275 CE; Music: Picardy, 17th c., arr. by John Helgen, b. 1957

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

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

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 11:1-45

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

Sermon

We are seated to sing.

Hymn of the Day

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery | ELW 334

Stanzas 1,2,3 & Lent 5

Music/Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

We remain seated for prayer.

Prayers & Meditation

We stand, as able.

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.

Offering Music

Sonatina Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

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.**

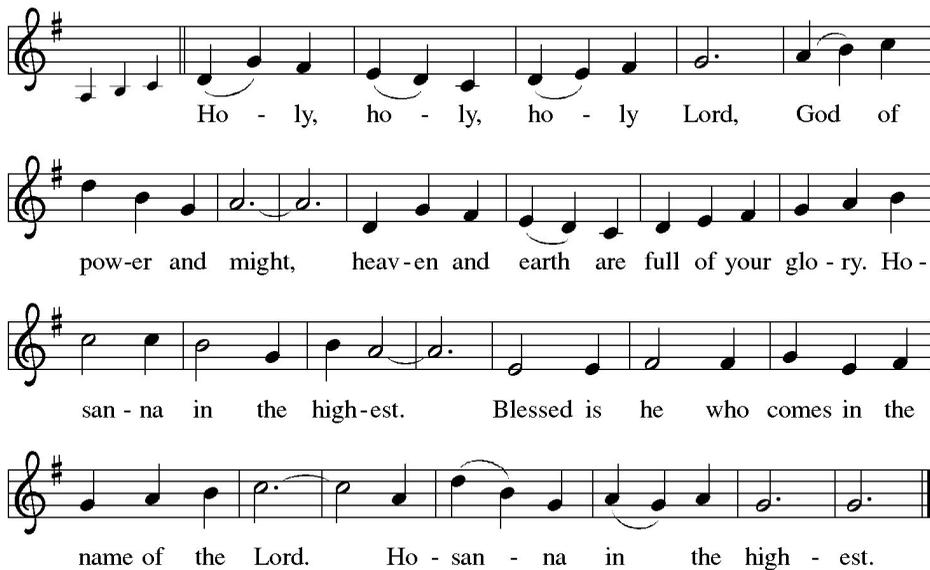
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

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

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land | ELW 333

Music: WEARY Land, African American spiritual

Text: African American spiritual

Everyone sings refrain and verses.

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

***Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* | ELW 712, stanza 4**

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.

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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 22

Ministers	All God's People
Altar Care	Nancy Neuse
Assisting Minister	Nikki Northcutt
Building Open/Close	Cantor Bryan Rust, Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Lector	Trish Karli
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Margaret Bruesch, flute; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding & Preaching	The Rev. Cecie Suknaic Saulnier
Ushers	Terry Porter

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

strength for all who fast;
all who mourn, grieve, and lament;
Jamie Morales, Pastor Katie's partner, & his family on the death of his aunt, Susan Morales;
Claudia Barlow & family, on the death of her sister, Lynn Terrell;
Leon Noren, for healing;
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.

WELCOME PASTOR CECIE

The Rev. Cecie Suknaic Saulnier is the Associate Director of Congregational Innovation at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in this neighborhood. A graduate of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, she previously served for two years as Pastor of Spirit in the Hills Lutheran Church in Spicewood, Texas. She has served for the past three years as Co-Leader and Founder of Gather: Austin, a collaborative, city-based young adult ministry of the ELCA. In these leadership positions, Pr. Cecie lives out her call to intentional, creative, and relational based ministry. She is grounded in feminist theology, stories, and storytelling, and is passionate about empowerment, accompaniment, justice, God's collective dreams for the future, and innovative ministry.

STEWARDSHIP: NOTES OF GRATITUDE - TODAY

Join the Stewardship Committee during hospitality time to write notes of gratitude! Take time to recognize an individual or to share a general message of thanks to our congregation. The notes of gratitude will be arranged on a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall as a visual display of the abundant ways in which God is at work in the FELC community! What note(s) might you write?

STEWARDSHIP: PRACTICING GRATITUDE

When considering the practice of Stewardship, or the communal care of our resources, it is both joyful and motivating to first express thanks (consider Jesus, who *first* gave thanks, and *then* broke the bread and gave it for all to eat). Following this example, the Stewardship Committee invites you to express gratitude in the form of prayer petitions, which will be used during service on Sunday, April 12. We want you to "count your chickens"! What are you thankful for? Who brings you joy? When do you feel overcome by gratitude? **Please email your gratitude-themed prayer petitions to office@felcaustin.org by Friday, April 3.** Thank YOU for practicing gratitude with us.

RAISE OUR VOICE | THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Raise Our Voice: A Night of Joyful Song! Join in person for an evening of music that brings people together. Led by Craig Hella Johnson and friends, this night is about being community, raising the collective voice, and celebrating unity through power song. We will gather on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 PM at First Austin, 901 Trinity Street. This is a free event for all - please reserve your spot for planning. For more information and registration, visit www.conspirare.org/events/

OLIVER RAJAMANI IN CONCERT

Join FELC's own, world renowned award winner Oliver Rajamani & Friends at Austin's great Parker Jazz Club on Easter Sunday evening, April 5 at 6:00 PM. For more information and to reserve your ticket now, visit parkerjazzclub.com and click reservations.

WORSHIP FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER

Sundays in Lent | March 22

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

Wednesdays of Lent | March 25 | 7 PM

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

Palm Sunday | March 29 | 10 AM

Festive Palm Sunday Procession, special music, & hospitality after worship.

Maundy Thursday | April 2 | 7 PM

*Confession and absolution, Holy Communion, a foot washing ritual, & stripping the altar
in preparation for Good Friday.*

Good Friday | April 3 | 7 PM

*Adoration of the Cross liturgy with reading of the passion narrative, choral & instrumental music,
& prayer around the cross. Virtual Stations of the Cross & Three-Hour meditations will be available
online.*

The Easter Vigil at Home | April 4

A take-home liturgy to prepare for Christ's resurrection.

Easter Sunday Worship, Hospitality, & Egg Hunt | April 5 | 10 AM

*Flowering of the indoor cross before worship (bring your cut flowers)
Resurrection story, Holy Communion, choral & instrumental music
Hospitality & Egg Hunt after worship (bring a basket)*