

First English Lutheran Church
March 29, 2026 | Palm Sunday | 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 congregational 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.

“Hosanna” or “Hoshana” (הוֹשַׁעֲנָא is a Hebrew word meaning *save us now*. Saint Augustine, fourth century bishop of the church, called Holy Week, the “Great Week” because of the great things that were accomplished during these days. Augustine said, “Unless the church can learn to identify itself with Christ in his death and resurrection, unless it can, on Palm Sunday, approach Jerusalem with Jesus, die with him on Holy Friday, and rise with him at the culmination of the Easter feast, the church cannot accomplish its mission, which is not only to proclaim the good news but to embody it in the world.” Many in the church recently celebrate Palm Sunday in two parts – the entry into Jerusalem and then the Passion of Jesus. FELC chooses to observe a more ancient custom and celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and reserve the Passion for Good Friday. We celebrate the Lord of heaven and earth riding on a donkey – and we, too, join the procession of people – whoever we are and from wherever. Jesus welcomes all.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Palm Sunday, Year A, adapted

Welcome to Community

We gather in the front courtyard garden of the church building for the blessing and procession with palm branches. Those not able to join in the procession onsite may take their place inside and online.

Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

We raise palm branches, as able.

Blessing of Palms & People

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along the way. Bless these branches ✠ and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ! Amen!**

The onsite gathering proceeds into the building. All join in waving branches and singing the procession song. You're invited to keep your palm branches with you throughout the liturgy.

When reaching a place inside the building, please remain standing, as able.

Procession

Hosanna (repeated)

music: Nancy Raabe, b. 1954



Greeting & Prayer of the Day

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord, and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

New Revised Standard Version, updated

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations;

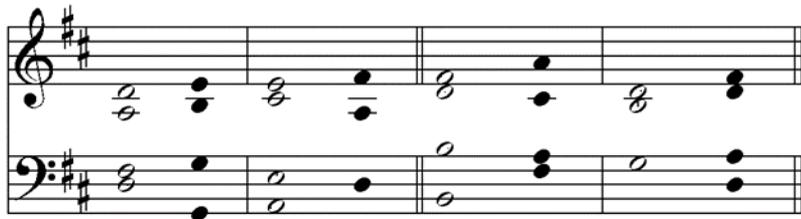
his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Response

Psalm 118:1–2, 19-20, 26-27 Anglican Chant

The assembly chants the psalm verses in bold print.



¹Give thanks to the LORD for the LORD is [|] good;
God's mercy endures [|] forever.

²Let Israel now [|] declare,
"God's mercy endures [|] forever."

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of [|] righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks to the [|] LORD.

²⁰**"This is the gate of the [|] LORD;**
here the righteous may [|] enter."

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the [|] LORD;**
we bless you from the house of the [|] LORD.

²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us [|] light.**
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the [|] altar.

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Children and adults are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

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

We stand, as able, to welcome Christ in the Good News.

We turn to face the cross in procession and sing the stanzas 1 – 4.

Gospel Acclamation In Procession

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful!

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; Music: *Hiding Place*, John Leavitt, 1831



1 O Je - sus, king most won - der - ful! O Con - quer - or re - nowned!
 2 When once you vis - it dark - ened hearts, then truth be - gins to shine,
 3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low, the fount of life and fire,
 4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess your name, for - ev - er you a - dore,
 5 You may our tongues for - ev - er bless; you may we love a - lone



O Source of peace in - ef - fa - ble, in whom all joys are found:
 then earth - ly van - i - ty de - parts, then kin - dles love di - vine.
 sur - pass - ing all the joys we know, all that we can de - sire:
 and, seek - ing you, it - self in - flame to seek you more and more!
 and ev - er in our lives ex - press the im - age of your own!

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

We sing stanza 5 of the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon

We stand to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day

***Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* | ELW 327**

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

On this festival Sunday, the Affirmation of Faith (a Creed) is omitted. The Prayers of Intercession are incorporated in the Thanksgiving at the Table during the communion liturgy.

A prayer list is found on page 14.

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Everyone returns to their places.

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.

✠ 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

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.

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

Offering Song

Let Us See Your Kindness

Rawen 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.**

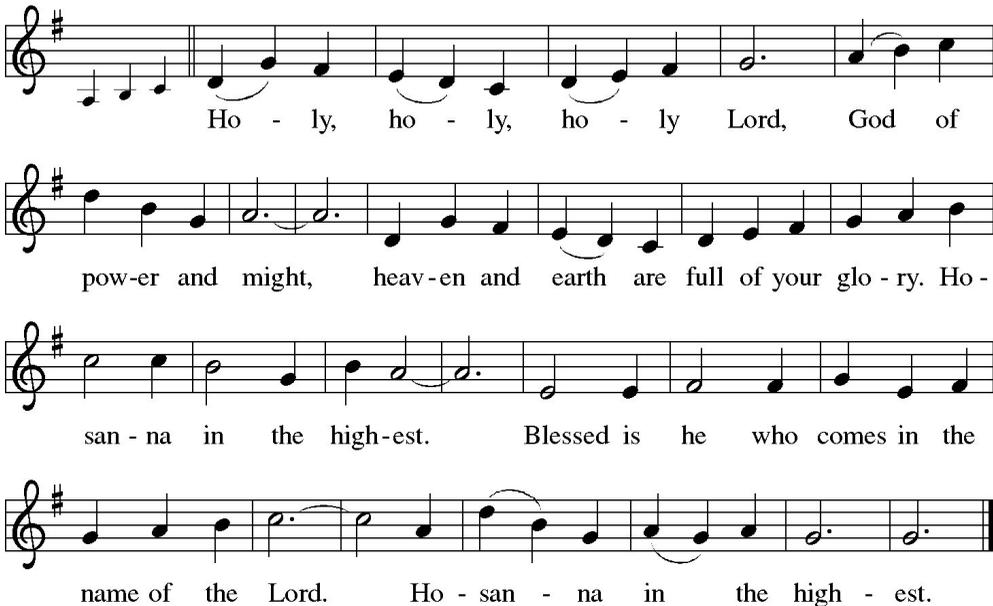
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent Jesus, your dear Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who proclaimed good news to the poor and marginalized, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was given up to death, . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remember, Lord, your one, . . . and preserve us in peace.

Remember the people of the nations . . . new, peaceful day with lasting justice.

Remember the sick and all who cry out . . . grant them healing and restoration.

Remember all the blessed dead . . . through the power of your love.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O God,

and unite the wills of all who share in this heavenly food and blessing,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us | ELW 431

Music: ALL SAINTS NEW, Henry S. Cutler, 1824-1902

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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 Song of Blessing, by Sara Groves

May God give us eyes to see all that is good, and the strength and courage for anything.
May God give us ears to hear God's loving voice speaking all around us and deep inside us.
May the blessing of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, continue with us, now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went.
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Dismissal to Mission

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**
Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Music

Palm Sunday Procession Gene Clarke

Hospitality

Join together in the Fellowship Hall.

***All are invited to take palm branches and place them above a door,
or behind a wall cross or other symbol of sacred witness.***

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. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



MINISTERS SERVING IN LITURGY | SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Ministers	All God's People
Altar Care	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Building Open/Close	Pastor Katie Rode, Cantor Bryan Rust
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Lector	Monica Lund
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust; Maria Straight, trumpet
Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Katie Rode
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;
Carl Brockman & Mary Robbins, as Carl heals from health challenges;
Claudia Barlow & family, on the death of her sister, Lynn Terrell;
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.

MICAH 6

As a result of Executive Director Barry Smith's injury sustained while working in the pantry, we are reminded of the ongoing need of having sufficient volunteers each week so that the work burden is not excessive on any one individual. Sign up at Micah6austin.org. If you cannot fulfill your volunteer position, please get a replacement!

Amplify Austin efforts raised over 22k with the matching gift from the Micah 6 board. A private gift of 150k was made, allowing us to continue to bring needed services to our clients. Micah 6 placed 2nd for those organizations who list Human Services as their main focus and received gifts from several first-time donors. Thanks again for your ongoing generosity!
Andy MacLaren, Micah 6 Board Member

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 the 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.

OLIVER RAJAMANI IN CONCERT | APRIL 5

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.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ | SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Get ready for some fun and fellowship with BBQ chicken and all the fixings. Remember to bring your favorite beverage if you wish and an appetite. Fun starts at 5 pm with serving around 6 pm when the chicken comes off the grill. Potato salad crew please contact Trish Karli and servers contact Nancy Baden. Pit and sloppers, contact Randy Baden.

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WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

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)*