Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Word & Eucharist October 19, 2025 | 10 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 (FELC). 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 theology, 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.

When we gather in the **Chapel of the Saints**, we gather as the saints of God in prayer, worship, and community. We gather with the saints of the past that we remember in various ways: the names engraved on the Columbarium, the Cloud of Witnesses mobile hanging in the Chapel containing the names of all who have died at FELC since 1936, and the icons displayed on the walls that remind us of people who inspire our faith and action today. The icons in the Chapel, by artist Kelly Latimore, are diverse saints, ancient and contemporary, and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each.

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 and chairs are available from an usher in the narthex.

A diversity of music is an important part of our witness, including the acoustics of our nave. As we grow our music ministry, we embark on a restoration campaign for our valued and aged pipe organ.

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.

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Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel story this week. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism. Come to Christ's table, everyone. Persistence in our encounters with the divine will be blessed. This Sunday we welcome Pastor Keats Miles-Wallace, of Technicolor Ministries and Monastery, the evolving queer ministry of the Southwestern Texas Synod. To connect, visit www.technicolorministries.com.

GATHERING +

LECTIONARY 29, YEAR C

The Holy Spirit gathers us into community.

Gathering Music

All Who are Thirsty



Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979

Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel

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Welcome to 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.



The assembly stands, as able.

Gathering Song

How Long, O God | ELW 698

Text: Ralph F. Smith, 1950-1994

Music: LAND OF REST, North American Traditional; arr. Hymnal version

A Confession in a Time of Fear

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our healer, and our keeper. **Amen.**

In the presence of God and one another, let us confess our fear.

A time of quiet is kept for self-reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that fear has wrapped itself around our ribs, that we feel the noose of power tightening. We confess that sometimes we cannot breathe. And yet we confess we are not alone. Our breath is braided with one another's, our survival stitched by hands unseen. Amen.

A Litany of Defiance

When they call us dangerous, we will answer: love is our danger.

When they call us extremists, we will answer: hope is our extremity.

When they call us terrorists, we will answer: we are builders of sanctuary.

When they try to unmake us, we will answer: we will not vanish.

A Word of Grace

Our souls magnify the greatness of God. **Our spirits rejoice in God who saves us!** May God have mercy on us, + forgive us all our sin, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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.**

Holy One, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to receive our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering and beautiful world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

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God speaks in scripture, proclamation, song, silence, and prayer, and in each person.

First Reading Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. Thanks be to God.



Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, based on Psalm 121 Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional; Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, refrain Text and music © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. Thanks be to God!

Faith of a Child & Spirit Space

Children and families are invited to gather near the baptismal font.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your beautiful world, for Jesus' love, for church friends and family, and for making me, me. Amen.

Children and families are invited to a Spirit Space in the North Transept, 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 children and the joy and curiosity they offer.

The assembly stands, as able, to welcome the Good News.



The Gospel is announced. Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Luke 18: 1-7 NRSVUE, adapted

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to the judge and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while the judge refused, but later the judge thought, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to God's chosen ones who cry to God day and night? Will God delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, God will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Ask the Complicated Questions



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

A prayer list is found on page 19.

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each intercession: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The assembly stands, as able.

Sharing the Peace

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 celebrating the Eucharist at Christ's table.

The assembly returns to their places.

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God feeds and blesses us with the presence of the risen Christ.

Welcome to Communion & Offering

All of life is an offering. God has entrusted us with gifts and abilities, and we're invited to share them for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate, in post mail to the church office, or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving. God welcomes generosity.

Offering Music Thee We Adore

Text: St. Thomas Aquanis, 1225-1274 Music: Plainsong chant, arr. Ralph Johnson (b. 1955)

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee who in thy sacrament art pleased to be; both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail, yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God, cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood; increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see, may what we thirst for soon our portion be: to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face, the vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.

The assembly stands as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing.

Offering Song Seek Ye First



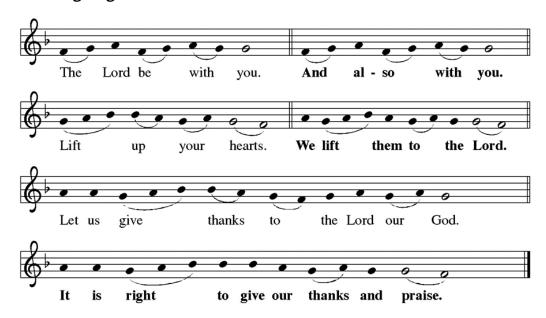
Music: Karen Lafferty Copyright © 1972/1986 Marantha! Music. All rights reserved.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, source of all life and being.

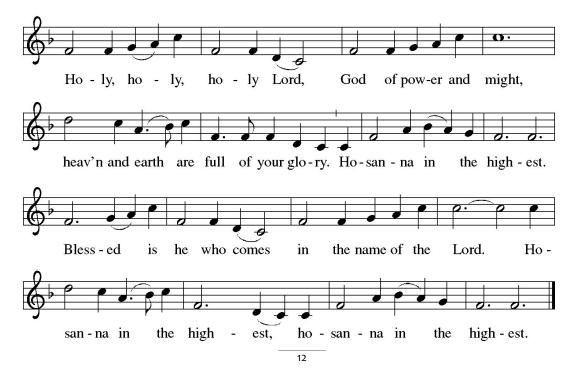
By these gifts and with our lives, empower us to serve one another and all in need. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Most holy God, we bless you, for in a labor of love, you created the earth and the first humans tended the shimmering beauty of the primordial garden.

You heard the cry of your ancient people as they toiled under harsh labor and liberated them from oppression and slavery. In the wilderness you sustained them with daily bread from heaven.

You provided them a double portion on the sixth day, so they could rest on the seventh. In fierce loyalty and love, Ruth followed Naomi and labored in the fields of Bethlehem and was graciously grafted into the history of your people.

At the right time, you gave us your dear Son, Jesus, a humble carpenter. Jesus abundantly provided bread for the hungry multitudes and taught that even the most undesired laborer hired last would receive a just wage to feed a family.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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.

Pour your Holy Spirit on these gifts, that bodily and material needs are met with dignity and justice. Awaken each community, nation, and the whole world with signs of your gracious presence, that all experience your healing love right now.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Most holy God, thank you for your generosity. You are steadfast in loving-kindness, fierce to provide for the needs of the poor, \pm and merciful beyond all knowing, for you live and reign in love, in the church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia.
Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread to be the body of Christ. We will love one another as Christ loves us.

The assembly is seated.

Song of Response

Lamb of God



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.

For those participating onsite, 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 for a prayer of blessing. 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 are pleased to include a Flemish virginal in today's worship service. Such instruments (a type of harpsichord) were common from about 1575 to 1650. This one was built by David Francis, and you are invited to view it following the close of the liturgy.

Bourree

from Sonata F (HWV 363a) George F. Handel, 1685-1759

Precious Lord, Take My Hand | ELW 773

Text: Thomas A Dorsey, 1899-1993 Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Most holy God, thank you for giving us your strength through this meal of grace. Send us to do good and to share our lives with all in need. **Amen.**

中 SENDING 中

God sends us in mission and service.

Community Invitations & Announcements

The assembly stands, as able.

Prayer for Courage

Let us pray together. O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Benediction for the Afraid

Beloveds, your fear is holy—it means your body knows the stakes. But know this: your body is not alone in trembling, your voice is not alone in shaking. The net of us will hold. We are not alone. not endless. Until dawn breaks, until joy rises, until love has survived.

The blessing of the Holy Trinity, who is love, \oplus liberation, and life, continue with you, and all those you love, serve, and resist, today and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Day by Day | ELW 790

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr Robert Leaf, 1936-2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

Dismissal to Mission

Beloved, do not lose heart. Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. Thanks be to God!

Hospitality

나 Our Worship Has Ended. Our Service Begins 나

Portions of the liturgy (Confession in a Time of Fear, Litany of Defiance, and Benediction for the Afraid) for October are from *The Unholy Hours* a prayerbook written for Technicolor Monastery by the Reverend Keats Miles-Wallace, Abbott of the Monastery. The prayerbook is a sacred companion for those reclaiming faith on their own terms. Moving through eight "Unholy Hours" from Waking to Witching, it offers prayers, blessings, and rituals for grief, desire, holy disobedience, and queer belonging. Technicolor Ministries and Monastery is the evolving queer ministry of the Southwestern Texas Synod. For more information, visit www.technicolorministries.com.

REFORMATION SUNDAY | OCTOBER 26

On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the heart of faith: the gospel of Christ that makes us free to live God's love fully. By the end of the 17th century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating All Hallows Eve, October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses in Wittenberg, Germany. These were a summary of abuses in the church of his time and his call to action. The Holy Spirit continues to reform the whole church in this age and place in mission. The church color associated with the Holy Spirit is red, and we invite you to wear some red on this Sunday.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY & OFFRENDA | NOVEMBER 2

We celebrate the Feast of All Saints' - a time to remember and give thanks for the saints in our lives and in the world. As part of the observance we will read the names of those from FELC who have died during the past year. We invite and encourage everyone to bring photos, drawings, and/or mementos to place on an Altar of Remembrance (Offrenda) in the Chapel of the Saints, and to write the names of anyone who has died in the past year in the Book of the Dead. The sacred space of remembrance will remain in the Chapel through November. (Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 PM on Nov. 2.)

FELC FALL FESTIVAL | NOVEMBER 2

5—8 PM. Schnitzel and brats under the lights with a special appearance from Karli House Brew. Bring any favorite German side and your favorite beverage (sodas, alcoholic or sparkling water) you wish to share. Water and Iced Tea will be available.

FELC FEEDING UT STUDENTS | NOVEMBER 4

Fall is here; at least on the calendar if not on the thermometer. Once again, FELC will be serving hamburgers to students at the Lutheran Campus Ministry, LuMin, Tuesday, November 4. FELC has supported this wonderful ministry for many years. We have a variety of opportunities to choose from. Sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A48A8AE2DA7FB6-59575398-felc. Free parking across 21st St. Contact Paul Barlow, 512-587-8002; tpaulbarlow@gmail.com.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Ministers All the People of God Altar Care Server Margaret Bruesch Assisting Minister Shannon Aguirre

Building Open/Close Ben Rode

Hospitality Heidi Goebel, Pam Williams, Marilynn Olson, Kate Wanstrom

Lector Trish Karli

Livestream Minister JP Northcutt-Benson

Music Ministers FELC choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe;

David Francis, harpsicord builder; Cantor Bryan Rust

Presiding & Preaching The Rev. Keats Miles-Wallace

Usher Heidi Goebel

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PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

strength & a spirit of justice for all who have worked & continue to support peacemaking efforts in Gaza and in the world;

Israeli prisoners & detained Palestinians released;

people of various faith traditions, & people of goodwill;

all who celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights;

Leon Noren, recovering from a leg injury;

Henri & Tim Atkinson as Henri begins treatment for breast cancer;

Andrea Rauch, for safe travels to Germany and a swift return;

Stan Cravatt & Ann Graham, as Stan continues chemotherapy;

Emily Schottmann, undergoing cancer treatment;

Fred & Sonia Ralls Dalbey, friends of Dave & Nancy Neuse, upon Fred's rapid decline in health;

FELC congregation, council, & our mission & ministry;

benevolence ministry partners Micah 6 Food Ministries, LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella, and their leaders;

the whole church & church leaders throughout the world;

ELCA Presiding Bishop Yiehl Curry & family, on the death of his mother, Regina Curry; those who are affected by the United States Government shutdown, especially those who are experiencing concern about a loss of livelihood;

citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States;

places of violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;

those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, & equity;

all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, & quality care, & for those who offer it;

all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs;

all who are homebound;

all in any need & thanksgiving.

The FELC Prayer Circle gathers faithfully to offer prayer. Contact: <u>bschutz@sbcglobal.net.</u>

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to declare the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ through proclamation, teaching, worship, and a caring ministry to all people.

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries, and the CDC.

To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter, contact office@felcaustin.org.

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Worship Ministry: Trish Karli

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