Sunday, November 8, 2026
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost Day
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



First English Lutheran Church

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

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
info@felcaustin.org
512.478.1933 church

Welcome

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. Following the example of Christ, we welcome you exactly as you are.

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. To learn more, visit www.felcaustin.org.

Accessibility

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary (main worship area) near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for use in the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Connect with the minister for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on the wood pews are available in the narthex (main entrance area).

Liturgy

Worship and adoration of God is at the heart of life for disciples of Jesus. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our belonging, define our identity, and are formed as the people of God. Liturgy is a Greek work translated "the work of the people of God" as we gather. FELC holds the Word and Eucharist ordered framework in the tradition of the whole church, including from early centuries. We gather, we receive the Word of God, we give thanks and are nourished by Christ's presence in bread, wine, and blessing, and we are sent to be active images of divine love. The Meal is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We celebrate at Christ's table, and all are welcome to receive holy communion no matter your background, faith practice, or curiosity. To learn more about Holy Baptism and discipleship with Jesus, please connect with the pastor. We utilize various biblical and contemporary images and names for God, Jesus, and humanity. The church season after Easter and Pentecost Days is half of the calendar year. Sometimes called "Ordinary Time" because of the numbering (ordinals) of the Sunday, it includes summer and fall with the primary growth color of green.

✢ GATHERING ✢ Lectionary 32, Year A

This week the ancient Hebrew prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Saint Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells a parable of those who wise and foolish. Surrounded by the beloved of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—and we receive the call to be and to share. - *Cantor Bryan Rust*

In our call and response, everyone is invited to pray aloud the text in bold print.
The songs and hymns are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the red worship book in the pew.

Gathering Music

Blest are the Pure in Heart
Henry Walford Davies, 1869–1941

Blest are the pure in heart for they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne chooseth the pure in heart.

Singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to prayer.

Rite of Smudging

Smudging is often the first step in many First Nations ceremonies. It helps bring the participants into the present, leaving behind the stress of their lives and other distractions. Incense is also portrayed in the Bible as visual prayers offered to God and in thanksgiving for those who have died.

We stand, as able.

Gathering Song

***Many and Great, O God* | ELW 837**
Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779-1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892-1964, alt.
Music: Dakota tune; arr. *Songs of the People,* 1986

Confession & Forgiveness

All are invited to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
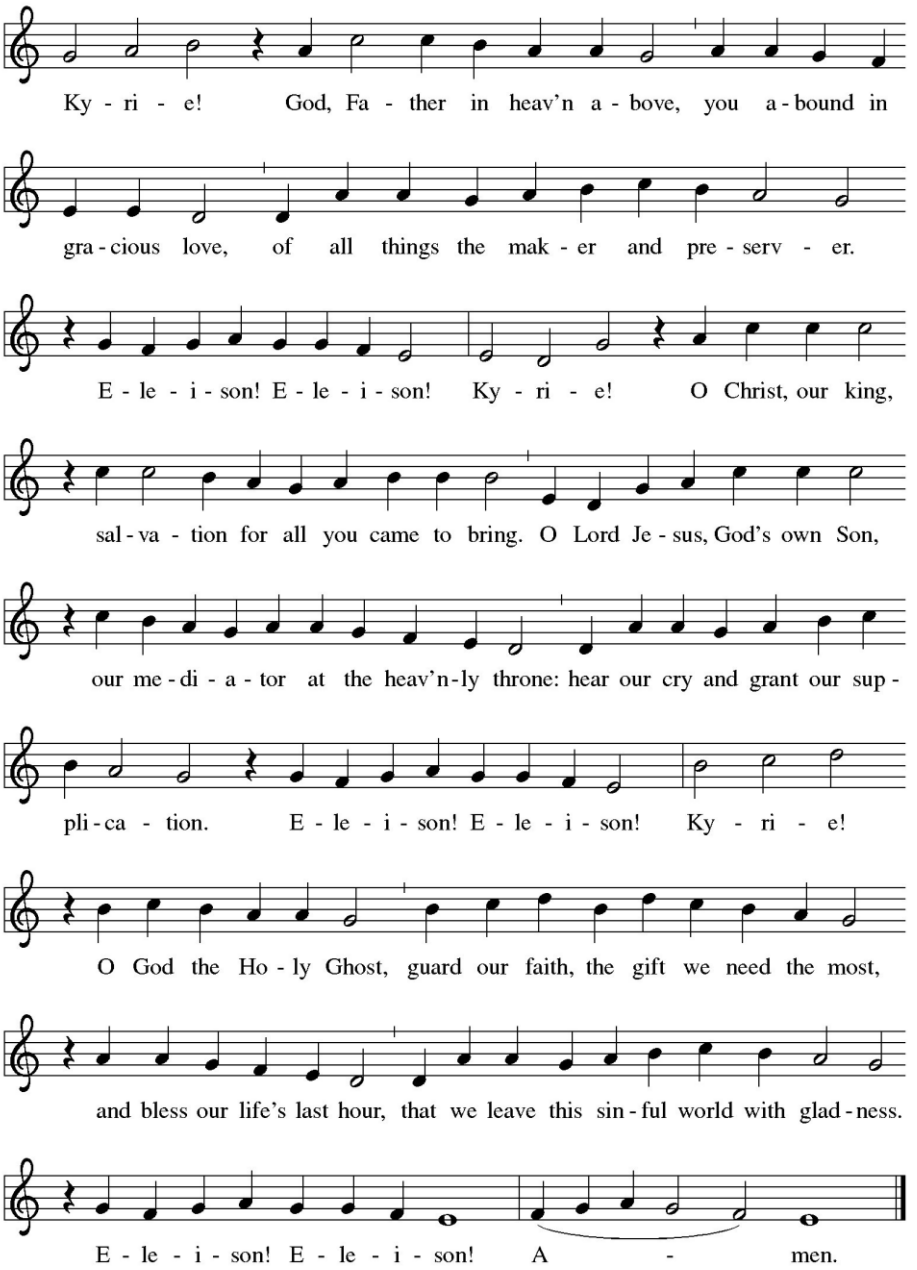
Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Source of all life,
we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We fear that we are not good enough. We receive your love freely given, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving the church outward. Forgive us. Transform us. Lead us. Renew us in your powerful love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

In Christ, we are set free to love joyfully, serve faithfully, and live abundantly.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Text: Latin, c. 1100; Kyrie fons bonitatis, c. 800
Used as an option in Martin Luther's German Mass, January 1526



Prayer of the Day

O God of justice, you illumine our way with the life and ministry of your beloved Son. Continue to give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✢ WORD ✢
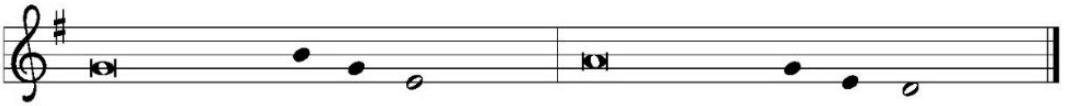
First Reading **Amos 5:18-24**

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or
went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept
them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your
harps.24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is chanted responsively.

Response **Psalm 70**



1 Be pleased O God to de- | liver me;
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"
5 But as for me I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

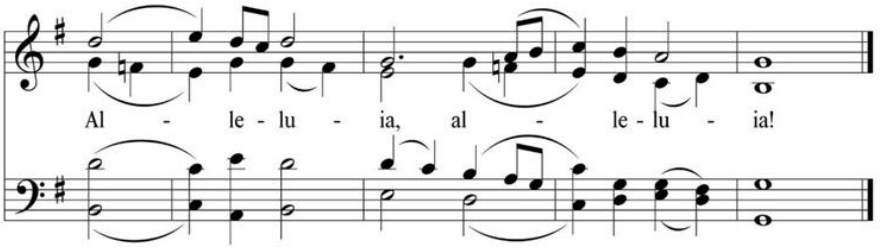
Children and adults are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, beloved, about those who have died, so
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we trust that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring those who have
died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who
are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
16 For the Lord God, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise
first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together
with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** *We welcome Christ in the gospel.*

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia** Based on *For All the Saints;* music: arr. Michael E. Krentz, b. 1962



Verse: Keep me as the apple | of your eye; hide me under the shadow | of your wings. Psalm 17:8

We repeat the Alleluias.

The gospel is announced, ending with: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
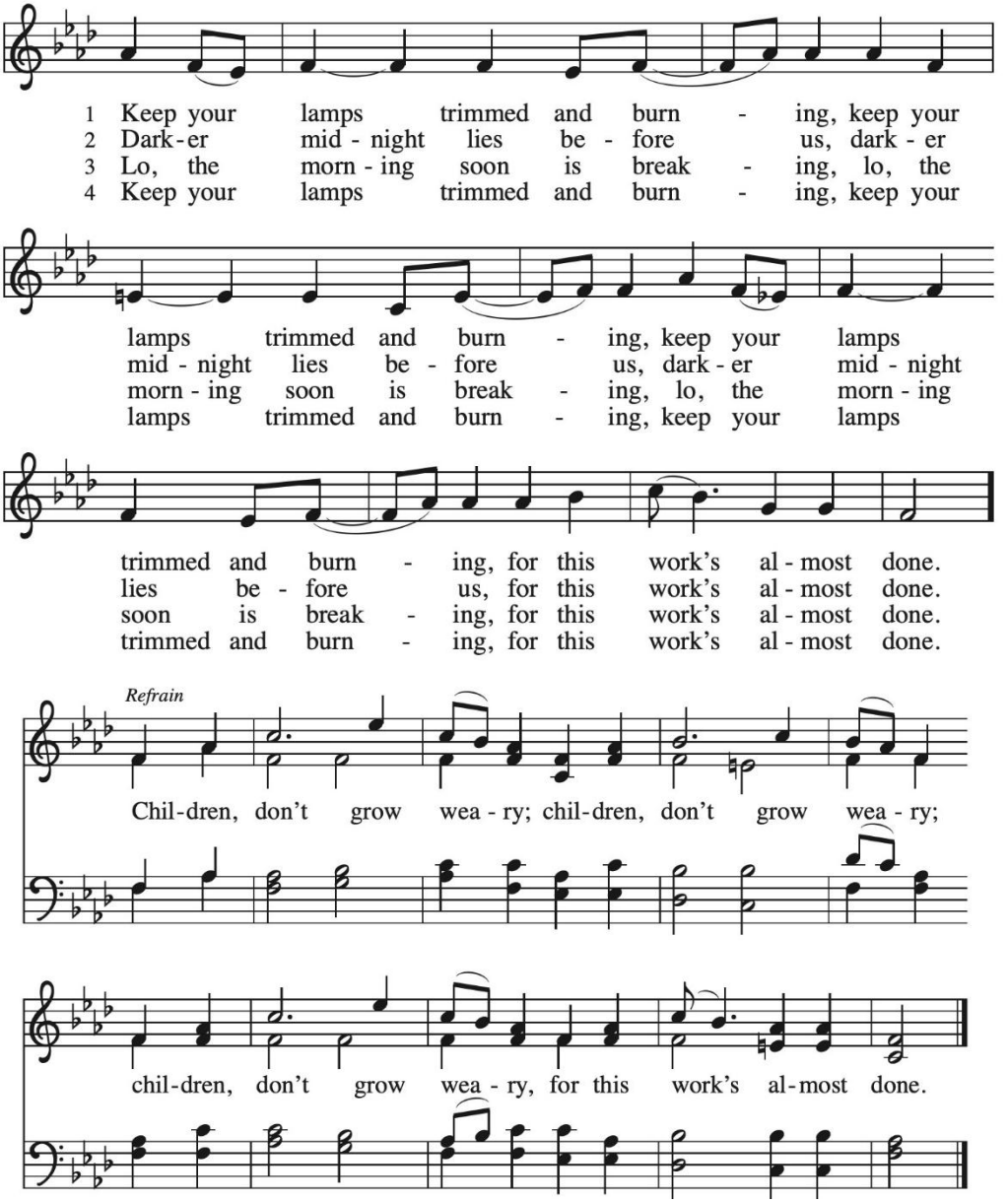
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!** *We repeat the Alleluias.*

Sermon

During the hymn and prayer time, you are invited to come pray, reflect upon the saint's icons, bring and view pictures and mementos at the Altar of Remembrance (Ofrenda), light a candle, write names in the Book of the Dead of those who have died in the past twelve months, and give thanks for those interred in the Columbarium. The hanging "Cloud of Witnesses" mobile in the Chapel contains the names of those form FELC who have died since our founding in 1936.

We are seated to sing.

Hymn of the Day ***Keep Your Lamps*** Text/Music: African American Spiritual



We remain seated to pray.

A list of prayer concerns and joys is found on page 19.

Prayers of Intercession

Intercession response: God, in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

We stand, as able.

Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm the baptismal faith of the whole church.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, ☩ and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

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

We greet each other with gentle signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. This exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice that builds and renews relationships.

Following sharing Christ's peace, we sit.

✢MEAL✢

Welcome to Communion & Offering

Your presence in worship and community is a gift. We reflect on the life God entrusts to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Then we act through God's generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.
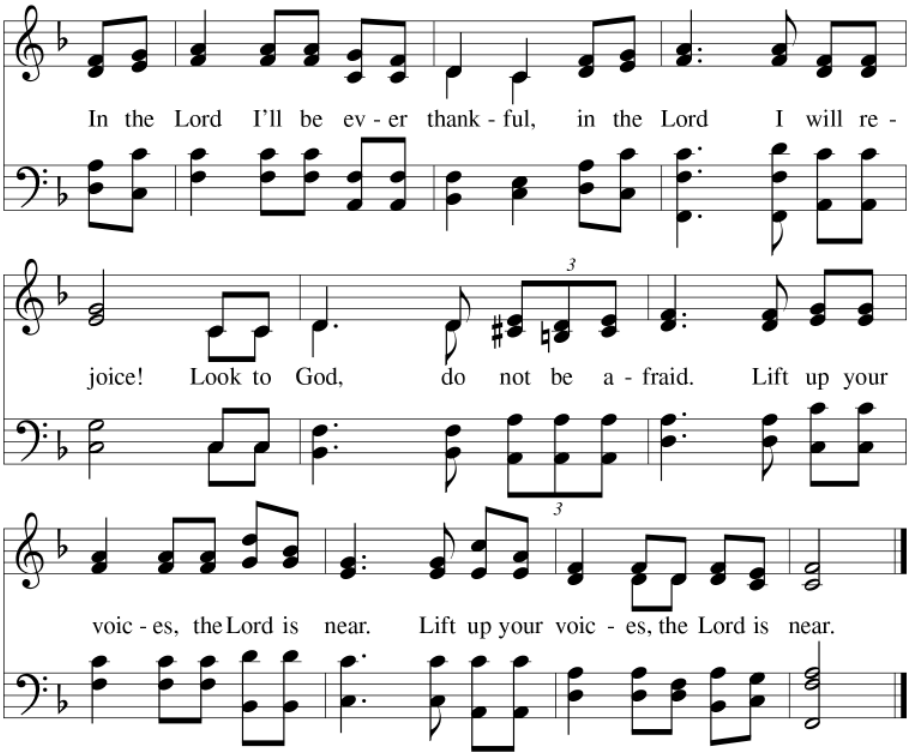
Offering Music

Oliver Rajamani

We stand, as bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented.

Offering Song

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful



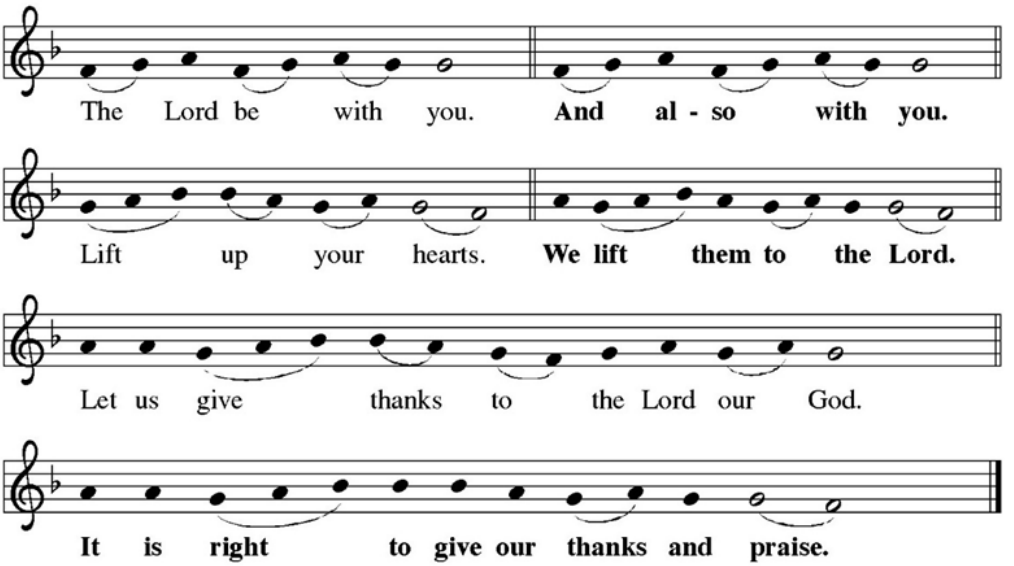
Text: Taizé Community, based on Isaiah 12
Music: Jacques Berthier

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Offering Prayer A Table Blessing from Luther's Small Catechism. 1529

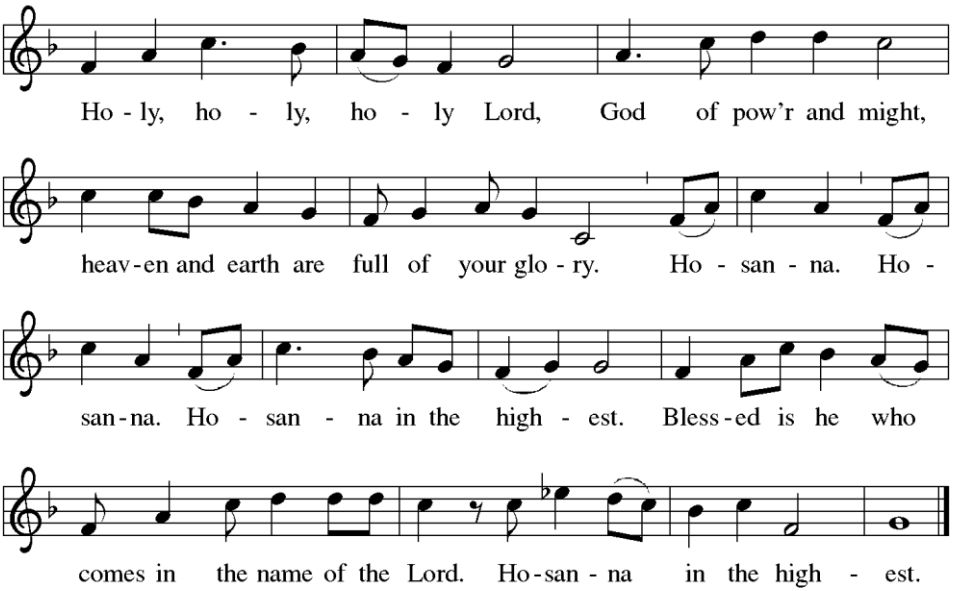
The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:15-16
Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving ELW Holy Communion, Setting 3, Richard Hillert, 1923-2010



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

Sanctus



Thanksgiving at the Table

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you do not abandon us. You guide us into paths of love and light.

In every age you send prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to proclaim good news, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to end all war, violence, and sin.

In the night in which he was given to death, . . . 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.

Remembering Christ's death and resurrection, we await the day for his return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord of Hope! And let the people shout Amen. **Amen!**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread, cup, and blessing with the courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the people shout Amen. **Amen!**

Join our prayers and praise with your saints, prophets, and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in freedom and lasting peace.
Through Christ, with Christ, ☩ in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, gracious God, in the church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen1**

Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:
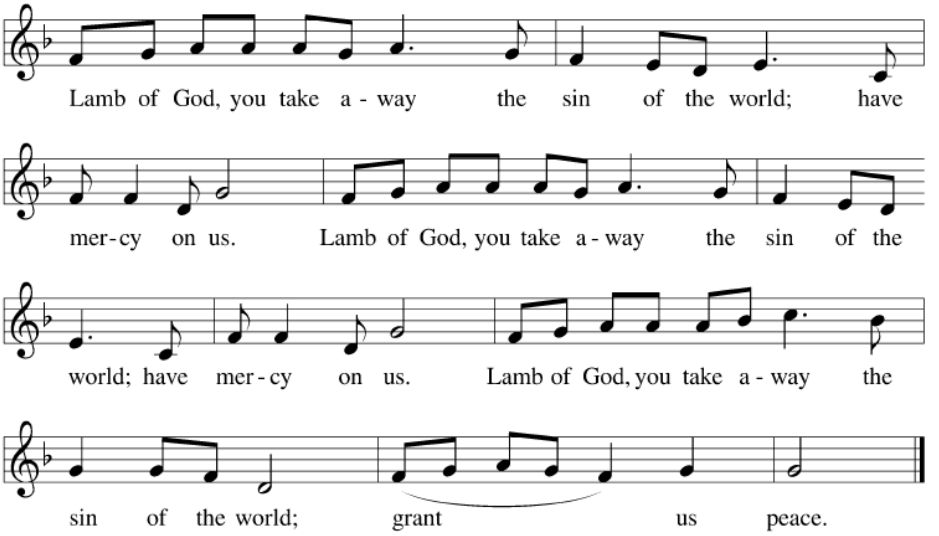
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

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

Be seated.

Song of Response ***Lamb of God*** Richard Hillert



Invitation to Communion & Blessing

This is Christ's table. Christ is the host. All are welcome. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating online, a minister will offer the invitation to receive any bread and juice in your home. For those onsite, you will be guided to receive bread in your hand to eat, then 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 to receive a blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

Communion Music

When Peace Like a River **| ELW 785** Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Day By Day **| ELW 790** Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005
Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

Prayer after Communion A Table Blessing from Luther's Small Catechism

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good. **God's mercy endures forever.** Psalm 136:1
We thank you, heavenly Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

✢ SENDING ✢

Welcome to Hospitality

Sending Song ***Lift Every Voice and Sing*** **| ELW 841**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938; Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Blessing & Dismissal to Mission Text: Wm. Sloane Coffin, 1924-2006

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short. Grace to risk something big for something good. Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love; and the blessing of God, Creator, ✢ Christ, and Comforter, be with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve as Christ**. Thanks be to God!**

Hospitality Time

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC faith community. To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter or connect with ministry leaders and staff, contact office@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.

TEMP SING-ALONG | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 3 PM, FELC

Sing madrigals together with other early music buffs No experience is required for this "TEMP-orary choir"—just a love of singing madrigals! This event is pay-what-you-can, and we suggest a donation of $20 per person with a minimum entry of $10 to cover expenses. To RSVP and for more info: https://www.early-music.org/

AUSTIN VOCAL COLLECTIVE | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 2-5 PM | FELC

Learn your part, then show up to sing together. Scan the QR code to RSVP and get your music in advance.

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM & GRATITUDE POTLUCK | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship & hospitality for lunch and discussion as we receive and respond to Dr. Norvell Northcutt's Congregational Report. We need your questions and feedback! Please bring a dish to share.

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In November we celebrate with our Native American siblings, whose ancestors called the western hemisphere "Turtle Island". We acknowledge that the land which we occupy had long been their home lands. We are all children of one God, the Trinity which we honor with sage incense-smudging and three feathers adorning our processional cross.
PLEASE WEAR SOMETHING RED ON SUNDAY, November 15, to honor Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 15: "Food & Faith: Till It and Keep It," led by Michelle Hockett-Cooper
Nov. 22: "Sumud/Palestine Issues and Concerns, Part 2,"
led by Tammie Danielson & Debbie El-Bathy
Nov. 29: "Sumud/Palestine Issues and Concerns, Part 3"
led by Tammie Danielson & Debbie El-Bathy

WE REMEMBER & GIVE THANKS

We continue to give thanks for the saints of God, close to the congregation of First English, who have died or been interred in the Columbarium since All Saints' Day last year:

Hollis Wade McGinnis	**February 16, 1926 – August 4, 2026**
Charles Elliott Hill	**December 1, 1935 – July 5, 2000** **Interred at FELC September 10, 2026**
Conway Leon Noren	**September 16, 1930 – September 13, 2026** **Interred at FELC October 17, 2026**
Patricia Skeaton Knezevich	**August 14, 1945 – November 26, 2022** **Interred at FELC October 17, 2026**

"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them."

CHAPEL OF THE SAINTS COLUMBARIUM

In 2012 we dedicated the south transept of the nave into the Chapel of the Saints. As part of this transformation, we added the Columbarium -- a place to inter cremated remains. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each. Names are engraved on the stone tile in front of the niche. This option for interment is available to all FELC members and family. 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 FELC COLUMBARIUM

Last Sunday, Eight Individuals Reserved Their Subscriptions for Only $600 Each!
Established in 2014 with space for 120 cremation urns, perhaps now is the time to consider selecting a niche'. The Council has approved a subscription increase to $750 per individual internment, effective January 1, 2027. Bring your questions to Fritz Woody during Hospitality Time today.

ICONS OF THE SAINTS

The FELC Chapel of the Saints includes icons of saints by artist Kelly Latimore. Using FELC memorial funds, we purchased and installed sixteen icons of diverse saints in the Chapel and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. They include saints contemporary and ancient from various heritages.

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

family & friends of Sam Wertheimer, for Tristin, Ezra, & Remi,
friends of Michele Hockett Cooper, in grief upon Sam's unexpected death;
Sarah Roberts, her family, & friends, for her recovery from surgery & support;
Margaret VanAntwerp, friend of Kate Wanstrom, for care & support;
Rory Kelley & family, son-in-law of Donna & Don Wright, as Rory continues cancer treatment;
Barbara Wiederaenders, in thanksgiving for healing, & as she adjusts to home life;
FELC community, as we recognize the Spirit in one another & in those who visit here;
in thanksgiving for veterans;
strength & a spirit of justice for all who work & continue to support peacemaking efforts in Gaza & in the world;
Micah 6 food ministries & Drop-in Center;
Lutheran Campus Ministry;
Casa Marianella;
those recovering from earthquakes, fires, & flooding;
places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict, & recovery;
those affected by gun violence;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace, & equity;
citizens & leaders of, & immigrants & refugees to the United States;
all in need of safe shelter & nourishing food & for those who offer it;
all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & spiritual, health, & employment needs.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Adult Faith Formation	Tammie Danielson & Debbie El-Bathy
Altar Care Server	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Council Stewards	Erin McCracken, Betsy Appleton
Hospitality Hosts	Hospitality Team
Lector	Trish Karli
Smudging	Fritz Woody
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Michael Marty, trumpet; Eli Aguirre, oboe; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
leigh.northcutt@gmail.com
Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Erin McCracken
Pastor Katie Rode
Anne Wiebe
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