Sunday, November 15, 2026
The 25th 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 33, Year A

The bible readings during November speak of the end times. The ancient prophet Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul writes to early Christ-followers the end will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we still gather in hope. We are eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming.

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

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
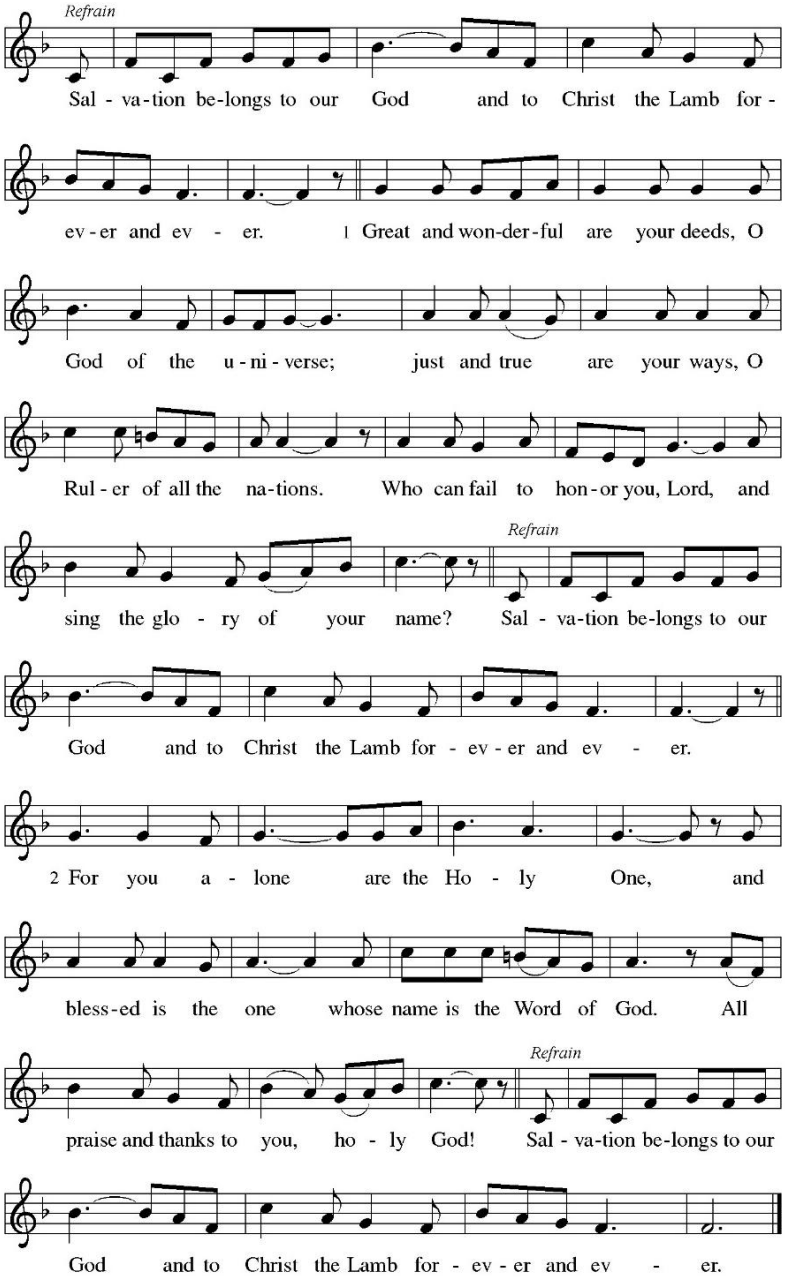
***We Praise You, O God* | ELW 870**
Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963
Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

Greeting

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.**

Song of Praise ***Salvation Belongs to Our God***

Text: based on Revelation 7:10; Music: Adrian Howard and Pat Turner



Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our merciful master, you bless the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✢ WORD ✢

First Reading **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build
houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink
wine from them. 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the
blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like
dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save
them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Anthem ***Like a Shepherd***

Text: Isaiah 40:11, Matthew 11:28-29; Music: Carl Nygard, Jr., b. 1947

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

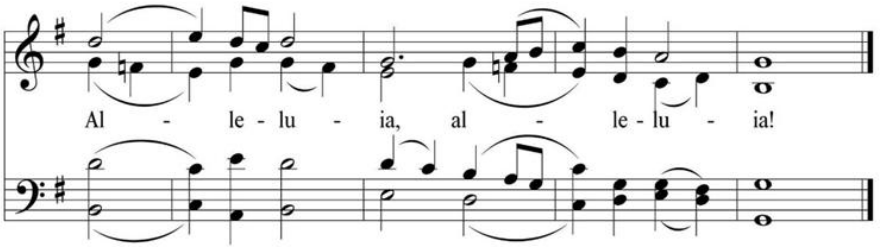
Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, beloved saints, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord
will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then
sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon the pregnant,
and there will be no escape! 4 But you are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you
like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the
night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk
get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died and rose for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with
Christ. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are
doing.

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: Abide in me as I a-| bide in you;* those who abide in me | bear much fruit. John 15:4,5

We repeat the Alleluias.

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

Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another
two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once
16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made
five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two
more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole
in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those
slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the
five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed
over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the
one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me
two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you
in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a
harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter,

25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I
reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to
have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received
what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will
have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be
taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

***Christ, Be Our Light* | ELW 715**
Text/Music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

We remain seated for prayer.

A list of prayer concerns and joys is found on page 18.

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.
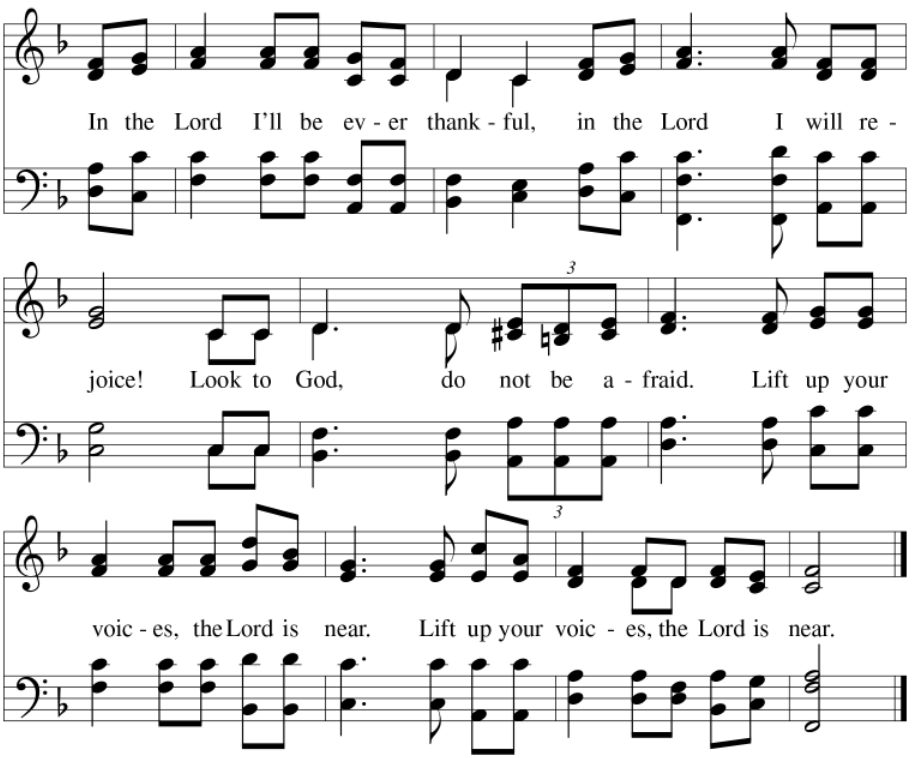
☩MEAL☩

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.

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

Offering Song ***In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful***



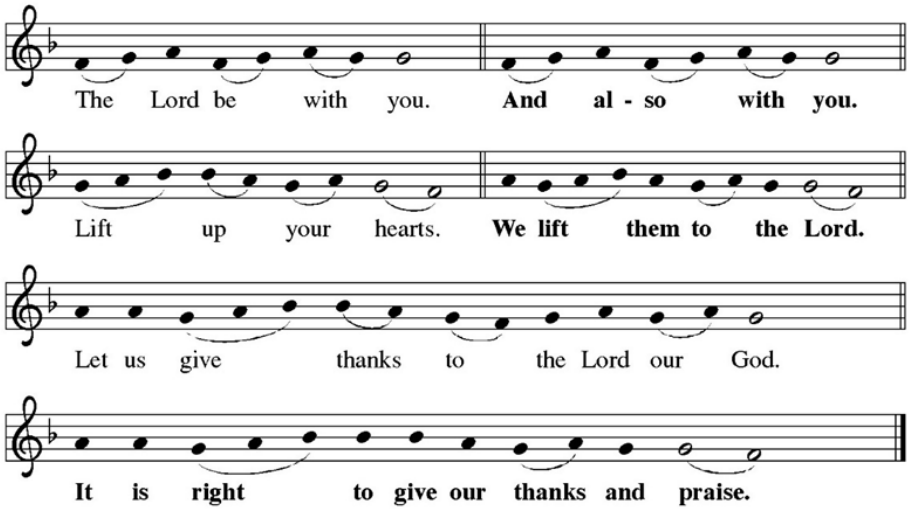
Text: Taizé Community, based on Isaiah 12
Music: Jacques Berthier

Text and music © 1986, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
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Offering Prayer A Table Blessing from Luther's Small Catechism. 1529

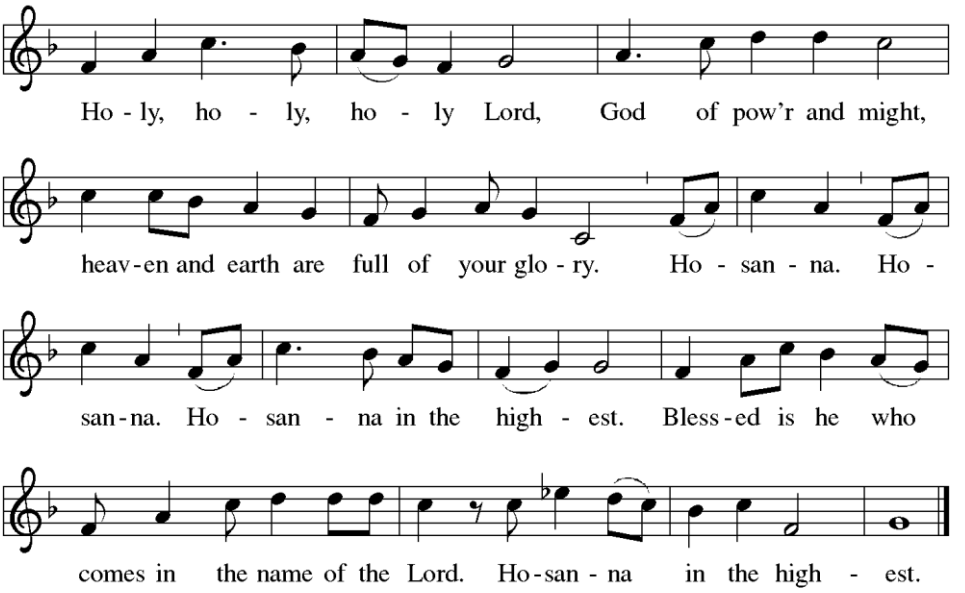
The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:15-16
Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. **Amen!**

Lord's Prayer

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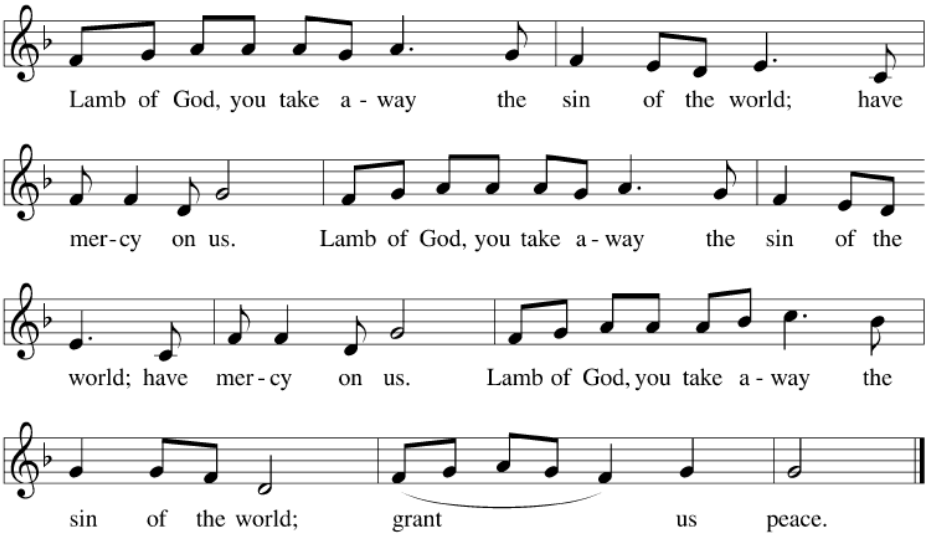
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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



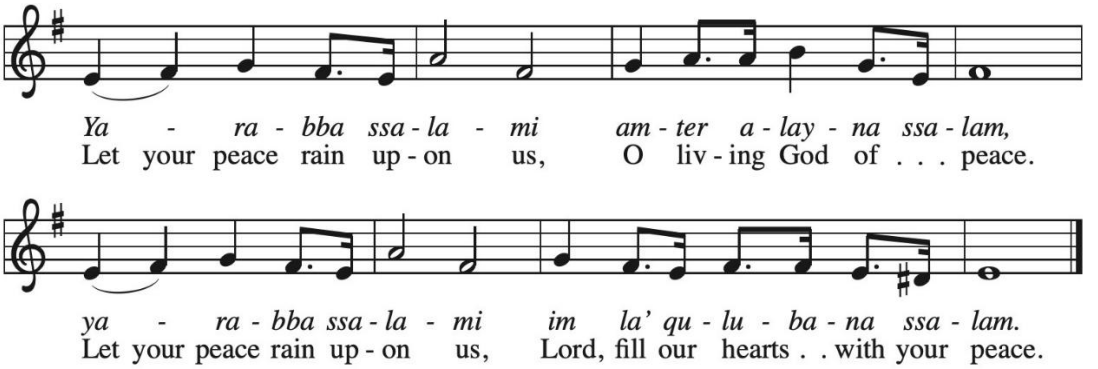
Invitation to Communion & Blessing

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

Let Your Peace Reign Upon Us



Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Music: YARABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

***Light Dawns on a Weary World* | ELW 726**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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 ***O Zion, Haste* | ELW 668**

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923
Music: James Welch, 1837-1901

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.

CONGREGATION FORUM & GRATITUDE POTLUCK | TODAY

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

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

Show up to sing together. Scan the QR code to RSVP and get your music in advance.

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
RED SHAWL DAY | NOVEMBER 19

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 homelands. We are all children of one God, the Trinity which we honor with sage incense-smudging and three feathers adorning our processional cross. WEAR RED ON THURSDAY, November 19, in honor of Murdered and Missing, Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). Red Shawl Day is an annual national effort to bring attention to acts of violence committed against Indigenous people.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 22: "Sumud/Palestine Issues: A Kairos Time" led by Rev. Anamae Storbeck
Nov. 29: "Sumud/Palestine Issues: A History" led by Rev. Sharon Wiggins

FLAMENCO INDIA IN CONCERT | DECEMBER 6 | 7 PM

Join Oliver Rajamani and friends in an unknown, historic story told through music and dance. Sunday, December 6 at 7 pm at State Side Paramount Theatre. For tickets: austintheatre.org.

REPERTORY CHORUS | DECEMBER 7 | 5 PM | FELC

Join Repertory Chorus on Monday, December 7, 5:00 pm, for a holiday concert. Graduate students and Undergrad music education majors will conduct. Free admission. FELC partners with UT's Butler School of Music to provide a laboratory, rehearsal, and venue experience for these professional, educational vocal leaders.

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS | DECEMBER 12 | 2 PM | FELC

Holiday concert presented by A Cappella Texas and A Cappella Unlimited.

MICAH 6

Micah 6 youth drop-in center (now serving 30-40 adults, ranging from young 20s to 50s) have had a full month of food prepared by Fadi Odeh, the chef at University Presbyterian Church. The food has been very well received, and we have worked out the help of a security guard and 3 volunteers per Saturday. Thanks to Anne Wiebe who will prepare the meal for the Saturday following Thanksgiving, when Fadi will be off. Thanks to Randy and Nancy Baden's request for donations for the food pantry at the fall festival. Over 100 pounds of clothing and food were delivered this past Thursday. If you would like to be involved with Micah 6, visit Micah6austin.org or contact Andy MacLaren, andymaclaren@cs.com or 512-947-4186. Sign up for the pantry (Thursday PM and Saturday AM) and drop-in center (Saturday 1-4 PM).

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Adult Faith Formation	Michelle Hockett Cooper
Altar Care Server	Teresa Ringness
Assisting Minister	Nikki Northcutt
Council Stewards	Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Hospitality Hosts	Hospitality Team
Lector	Anne Wiebe
Smudging	Fritz Woody
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Gwen Flory, soloist; Michael Marty, trumpet; Eli Aguirre, oboe; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

in thanksgiving for veterans;
in this week of transgender awareness, increase understanding & care for trans people;
in commemoration of the missing, murdered, indigenous women, girls, & two-spirit people;
FELC community, as we recognize the Spirit in one another & in those who visit here;
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.
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;

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
leigh.northcutt@gmail.com
Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Erin McCracken
Pastor Katie Rode
Anne Wiebe
Joe Cain, Treasurer
Gwen Flory, Financial Secretary

STAFF

Pastor Katie Rode
512-318-2749
pastor@felcaustin.org
Cantor Bryan Rust
cantor@felcaustin.org
Church Office Administrator
Dawn Wetzel
office@felcaustin.org
Custodial Care
Teresa del Aguila & family
Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

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ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY AT FIRST ENGLISH 2026

Sundays in Advent | November 29; December 6, 13, 20
Adult Faith Formation | 9:00 am
Holy Communion Worship Onsite & YouTube | 10:00 am
Hospitality following Worship Onsite

Wednesdays in Advent | December 2, 9, 16
Advent Bible Study in the FELC Library, led by Pastor Katie | 5:30 pm
Holden Evening Prayer Onsite & YouTube | 7 pm
Blue Christmas Evening Prayer | December 16 | 7 pm

Advent Open House | Sunday, December 6 | 11:15 am
Fellowship, treats, and Christmas tree decorating, hosted by Pastor Katie

Christmas Caroling | Saturday, December 19
Visit homebound folks to spread the joy of Christmas
Meet at FELC at 11:30 am

Christmas Eve | Thursday, December 24
Holy Communion & Candlelight | 7:00 pm
Prelude Music begins at 6:45 pm
Onsite & YouTube

Sunday after Christmas | December 27
Holy Communion Worship with Lessons & Carols | 10:00 am
Onsite & YouTube
Hospitality following Worship Onsite
No adult faith formation on December 27

Epiphany Sunday | January 3, 2027
Adult Faith Formation | 9:00 am
Holy Communion Worship Onsite & YouTube | 10:00 am
Hospitality following Worship Onsite

