

# *First Lutheran Church*

An ELCA Congregation

*Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!*



Sunday, July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Worship & Communion

# Welcome!

ALL are welcome here! Believers, doubters, people  
with questions, people with pasts, all walks of  
life...People!

We are thankful that YOU are here!



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Holy Communion 10:00am

## **Prelude & Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

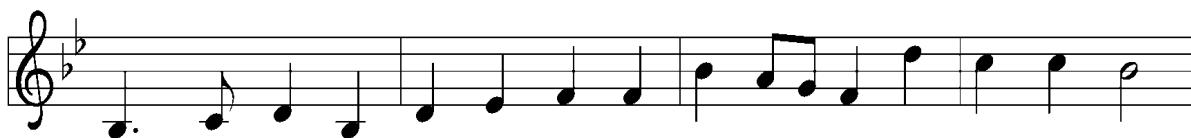
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.**

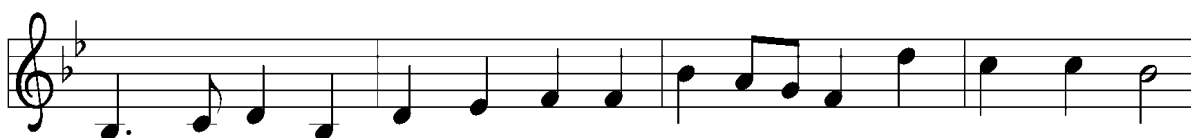
***Gathering Song***

**ELW 533**

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

### ***Apostolic Greeting***

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

**All And also with you.**

## Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Canticle of Praise



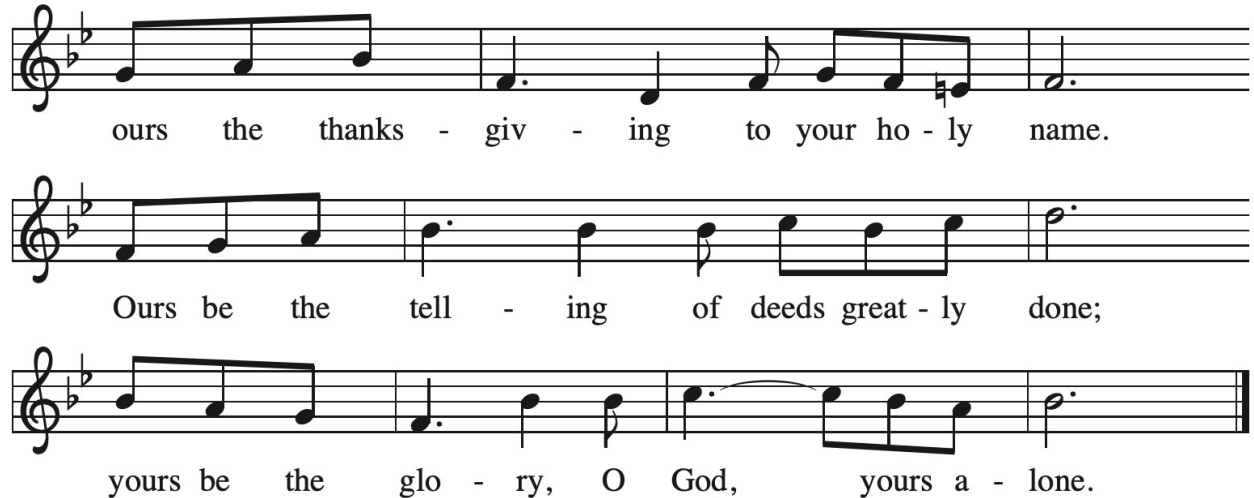
1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Children's Message**

*Children are invited forward for a special message with Ms. Krista!*

### **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13**

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

Lector The first reading comes from Isaiah the 55th chapter.

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.  
Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 65:9-13**

Lector Let us join together in the responsive reading of the Psalm. Please join in the bold verses.

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## **Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11**

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

Lector The second reading comes from Romans the 8th chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ

Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able to receive the gospel.*

**Acclamation is sung twice to with the African Drum.**

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

### Gospel

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this*

*good news produces different results in those who hear.*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was

sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

**Sermon** **The Rev. Richard A. Rhoades**

Please stand as able.

***Hymn of the Day***

***ELW 681***

## We Plow the Fields and Scatter



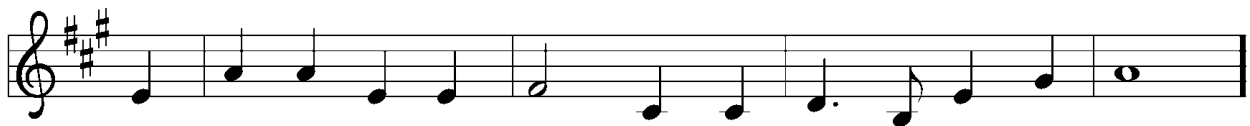
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

### *Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## **CREED**

Let us join in confessing the Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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.**

### ***Prayers of Intercession***

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*Please stand as able.*

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.' are written below the notes.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit that we might bear the fruits of your spirit. God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. Help us to become good stewards of the wondrous planet you have given us as we look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelms throughout the world. We pray for peace to overtake the situations in the Middle East, in Israel, Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, in Ukraine and Russia, in places plagued by terrorist groups and all places facing human made strife. God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.


The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The word 'All' is written above the first staff.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns, including Clay, Joyce, Danny, Peggy, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now. . . . God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**


God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith including Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today. God of grace, **let our prayers rise like incense before you.**

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### ***Passing the Peace***

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

### ***Offering***

*For those who wish to donate online the QR code will take you to the online giving page.*



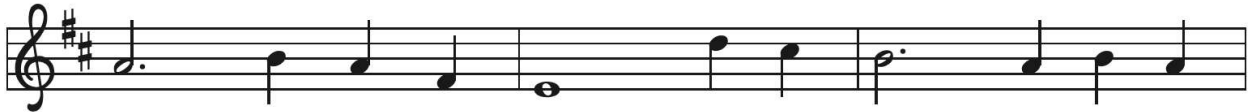
*Please stand as able.*

## Offering Song

### Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to  
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not  
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my  
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -  
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -  
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -  
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."  
fore you; do not run from me in fright."  
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."  
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

## Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you**

Pastor Lift up your hearts

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the lord our God.

**All It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**(ELW 413)**

**All Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory and your  
grace.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who  
Comes in the name of the Lord God most high.**

*Pastor In the night that Jesus was betrayed, in an  
upper room,  
He took and bread and blessed it as he said,  
Here's my body broken for you.*

*He took the cup and raised it up on high,  
bowed his head and prayed,  
And then he said my blood for you is shed,  
a cleansing stream to wash your sins away.*

**All Come and see the Glory of the Lord,  
come behold the Lamb,  
Come and taste the mercy of the King,  
bowing down before him.  
For He is Lord above the heavens,  
Lord in all the earth  
Lord of all the angels,  
Worthy too be served.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord.**

### ***Lord's Prayer***

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### ***Invitation To Communion***

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*Please be seated.*

### ***Distribution***

Ushers will guide you to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available from the Pastor. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered in the trays. For a blessing, come forward with your arms folded over your chest. A Healing Prayer Station is in the back of the room.

## Communion Song



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.

## Reception of Holy Communion

*Music during the reception of Holy Communion*

## Communion Hymns

**Lord, let my heart be good soil**

**ELW 512**

# Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**Almighty God, your word is cast**

**ELW 516**

## Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

*Please stand as able.*

### **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✝  
strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **Prayer**

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you

today and always.

**Amen.**

***Sending Song***

**ELW 547**

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

***Dismissal***

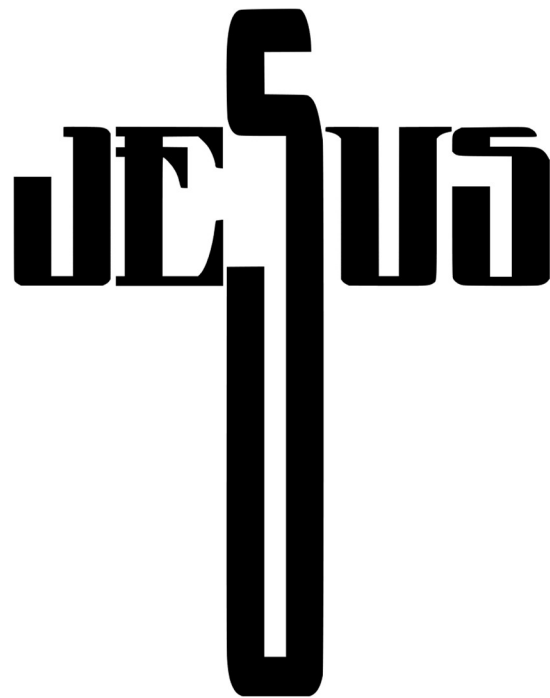
Jesus calls us to be a community,  
**embracing all; nourishing mind, body and spirit.**

We go into the world

**Following Jesus – Loving All!**

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**Thanks be to God. And we will!**



***Postlude***

Email: [flcg@firstlutherangalveston.com](mailto:flcg@firstlutherangalveston.com)

[www.firstlutherangalveston.com](http://www.firstlutherangalveston.com)

**Church Office Hours, Monday – Thursday**

**9:00am to 12:00pm, 12:30pm to 3:00pm**

The People of First Lutheran, Ministers

The Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Senior Pastor

Krista Scheuerman, Youth, Family & Communications

Don F. Hermanson, Director of Music/Organist

Annie Blanken, Executive Director, LMA

Christina Muehe, Director, Lyceum

Kim Robles, Nursery (Wiggle Room)

**Let Us Know You Are Here!**

