

# *First Lutheran Church*

An ELCA Congregation

*Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!*



Sunday, July 26, 2026

Ninth 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!*



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 26, 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.

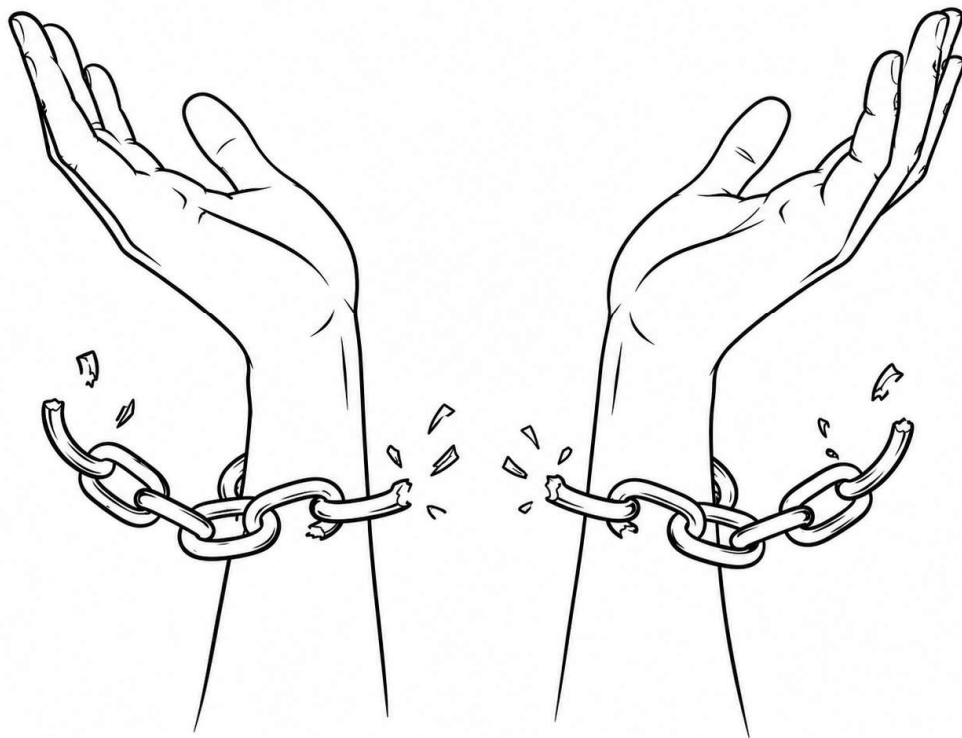
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**



# Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



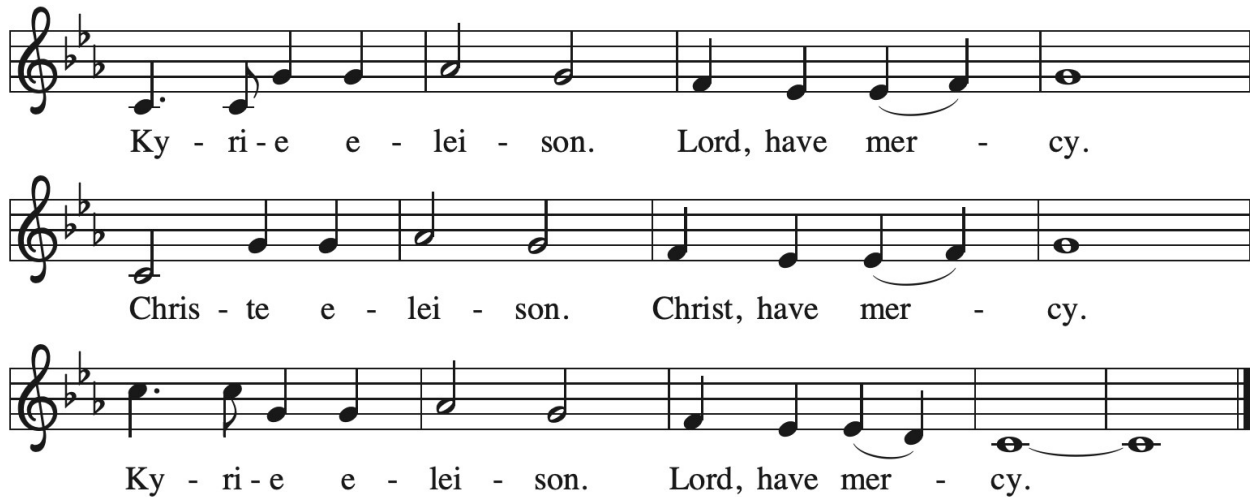
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## ***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.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final half note. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

## ***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***

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Tell Your Story: Jeff Peterson***

### **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: 1 Kings 3:5-12**

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

Lector - The first reading comes from 1<sup>st</sup> Kings the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an

understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 119:129-136**



<sup>129</sup> Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.  
<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple. R**  
<sup>131</sup> I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.  
<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**

**as you always do to those who | love your  
name. R**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,  
and I will keep | your commandments. R**

<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine up- | on your servant  
and teach | me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching. R**

### **Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39**

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

Lector The second reading comes from Romans the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a

large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



### Gospel

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

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

<sup>31</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its

branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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.

### Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me  
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has  
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be  
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;  
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;  
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.  
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

## **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.**

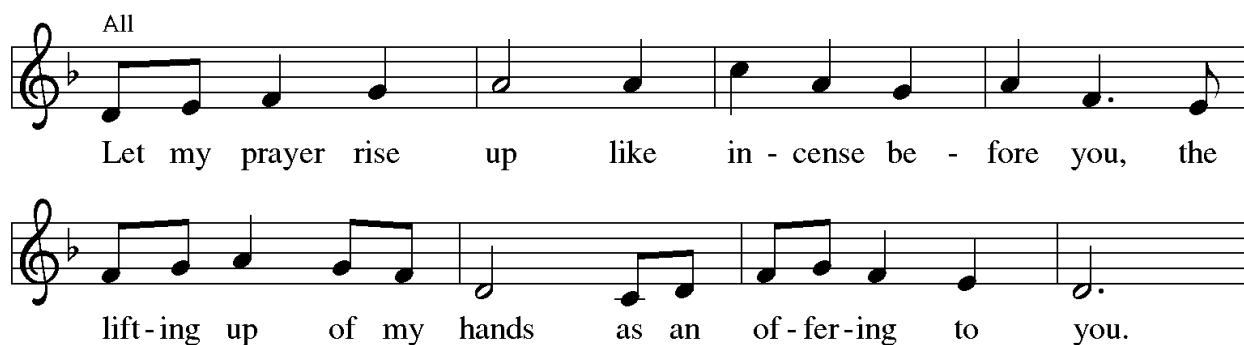
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at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



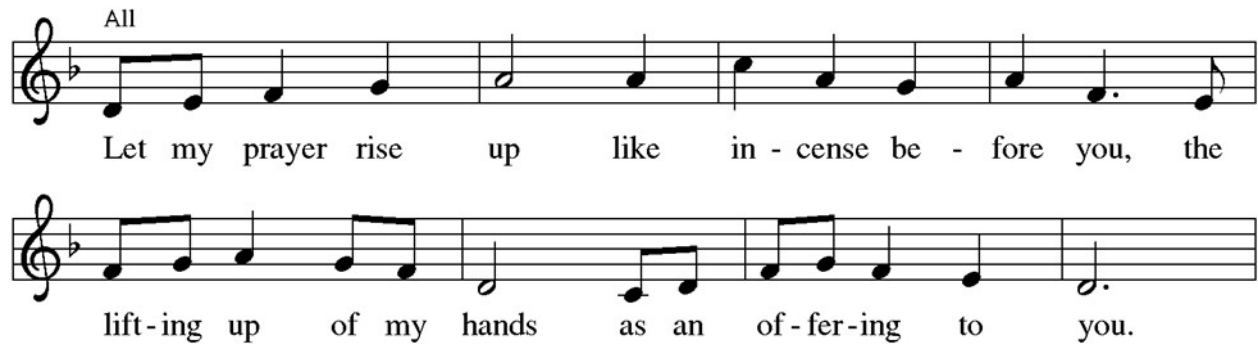
God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those discerning and those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. Sustain them in health and hope as they live into your calling. We lift up Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schulz, and Haddad, our international partners in Peru, the Central African Republic, and the Maasai in Tanzania. God of grace,

**let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from crowded beaches to wild places, from mountain peaks to ocean depths. God of grace, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity. Give them a burden to lead with justice and truth and remind us of your love from which we can

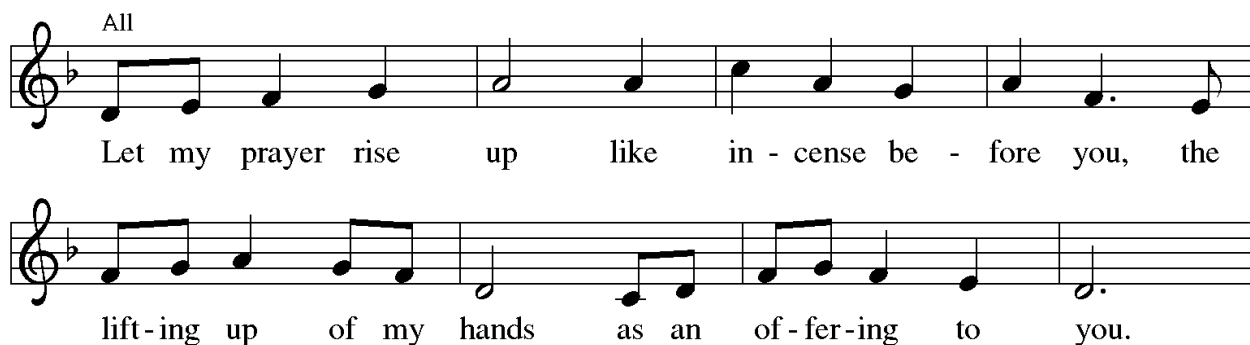
never be separated. Bring an end to terrorism and war in all places. God of grace, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**



God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray for Joyce, Danny, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now . . .  
.God of grace, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. Give us opportunity to build community in your love with all those who take shelter in your mercy. God of grace, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace, **let our prayers rise up like incense before 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.*



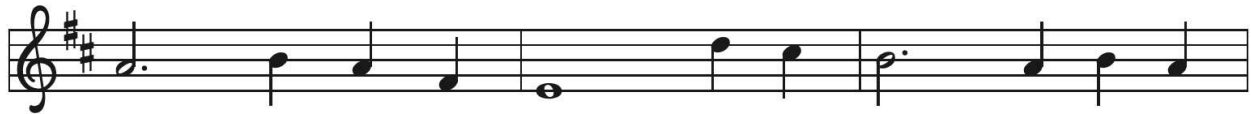
*Please stand as able.*

### ***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 to 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.

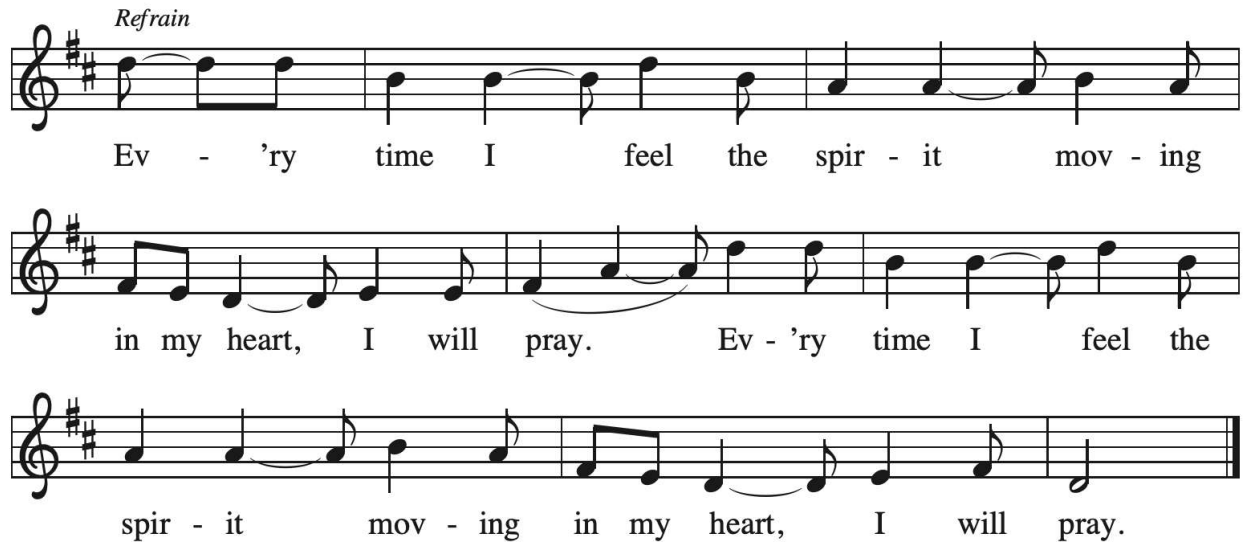
## **Reception of Holy Communion**

*Music during the reception of Holy Communion*

## Communion Hymns

### Every Time I Feel the Spirit

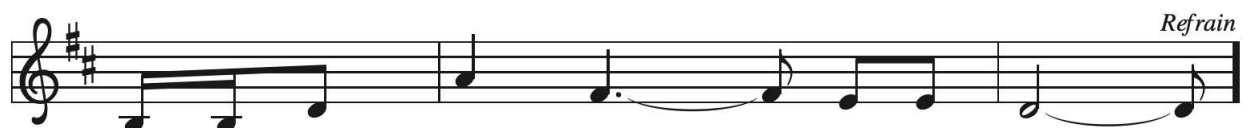
*Refrain*



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing  
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the  
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
asked . . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

## Break Now the Bread of Life



- 1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
- 2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
- 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page  
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,  
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.  
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!  
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

*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.**

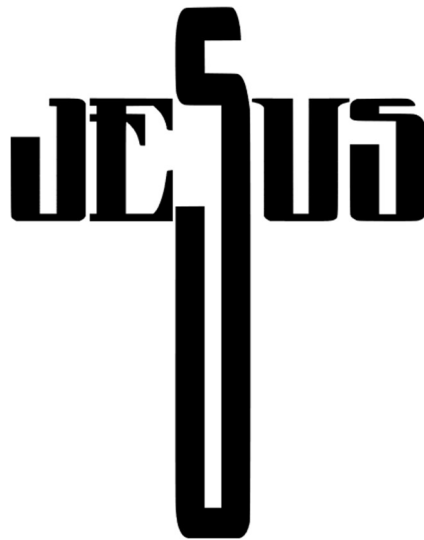
## **Sending**

*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.**



## Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

### **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!**

