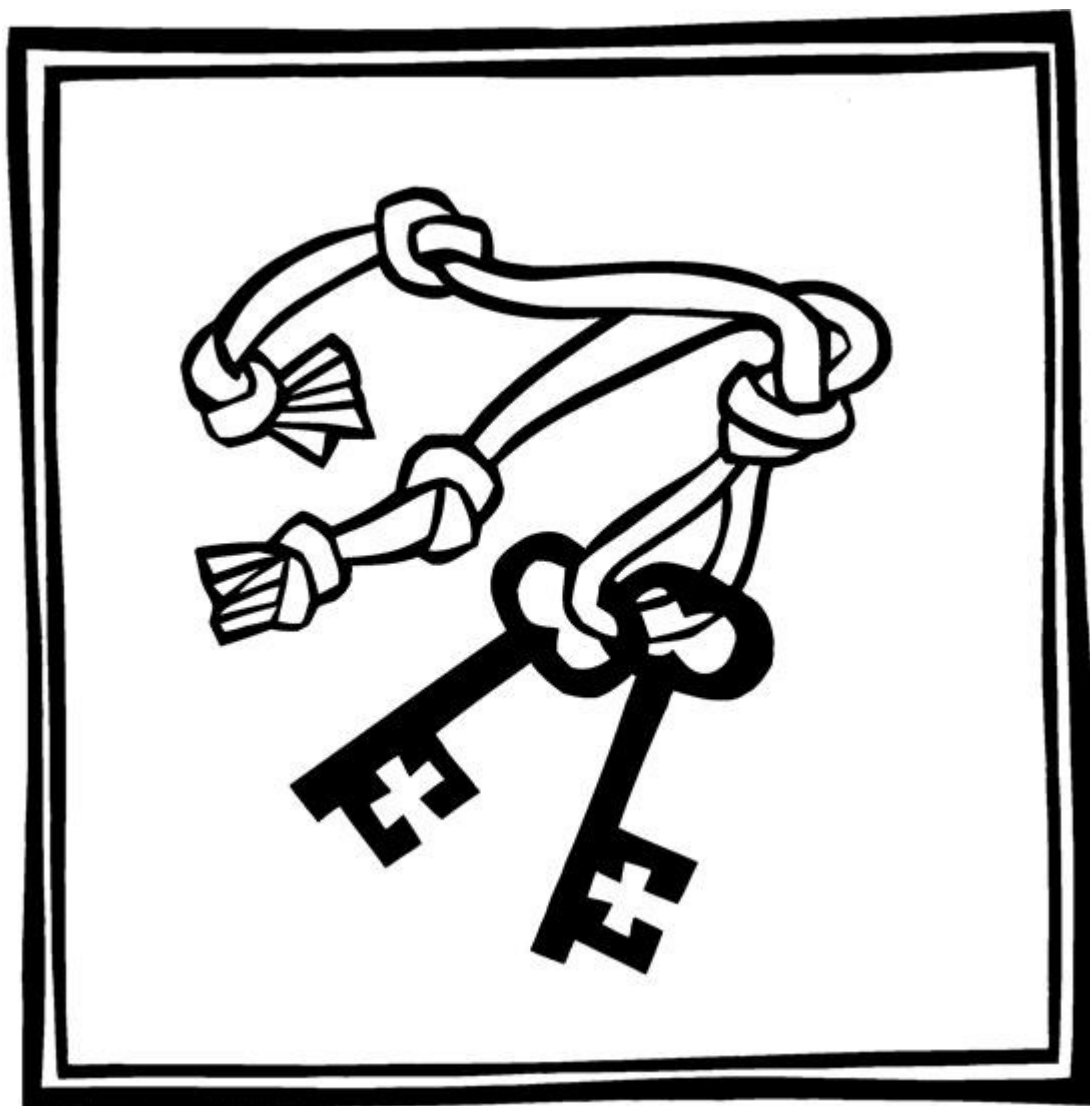


First Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation

Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!



Sunday, August 23, 2026

Thirteenth 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!



In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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.

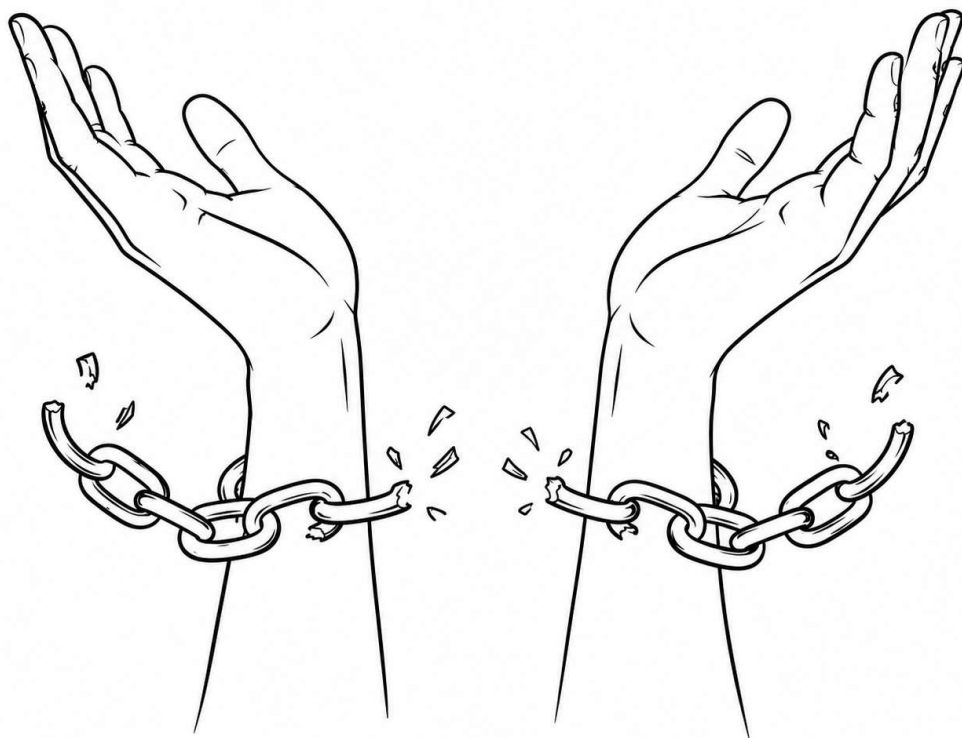
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.



The Church's One Foundation



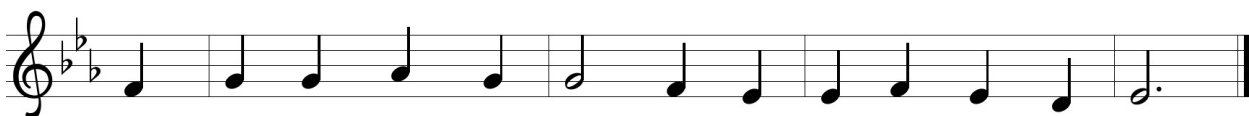
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



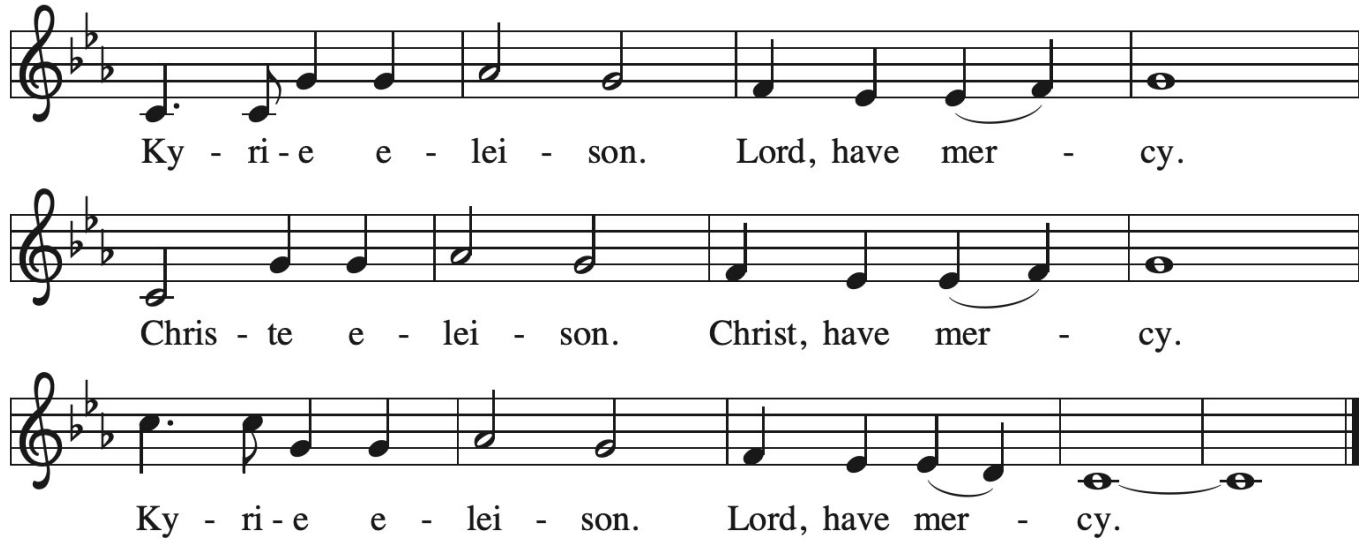
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

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



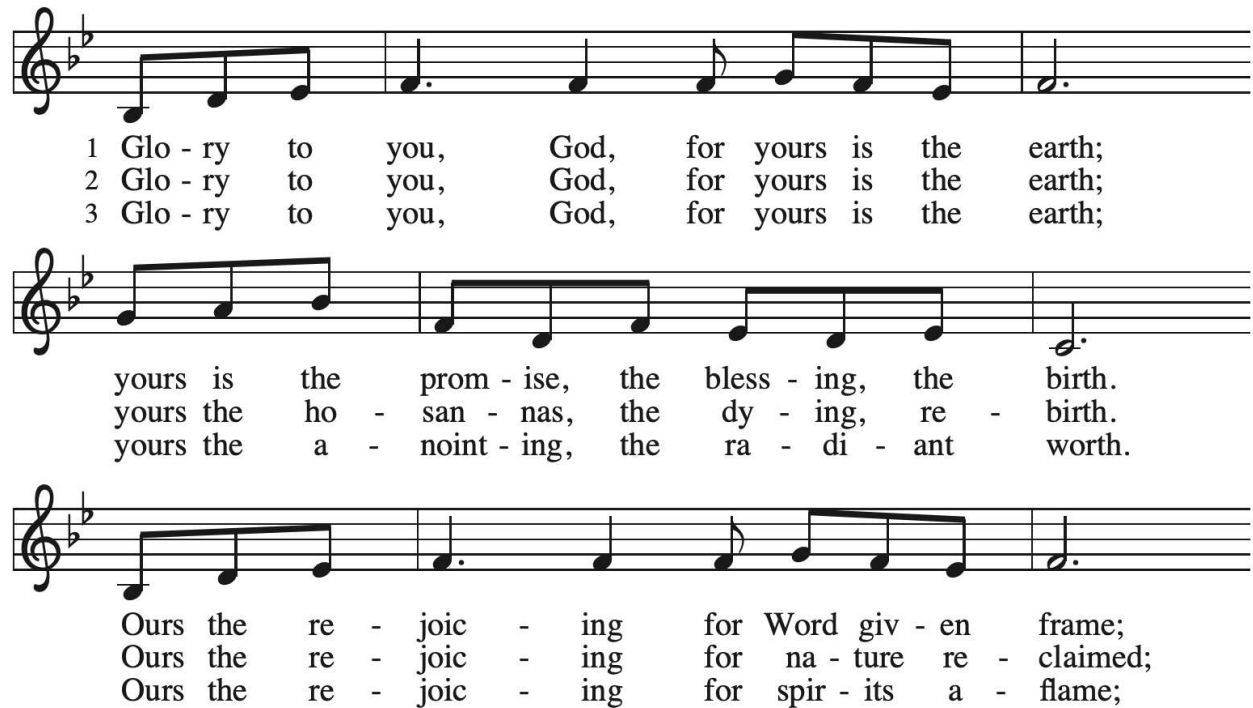
Musical notation for the Kyrie, featuring three staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff contains the lyrics "Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy." The third staff contains the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and some rests.

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

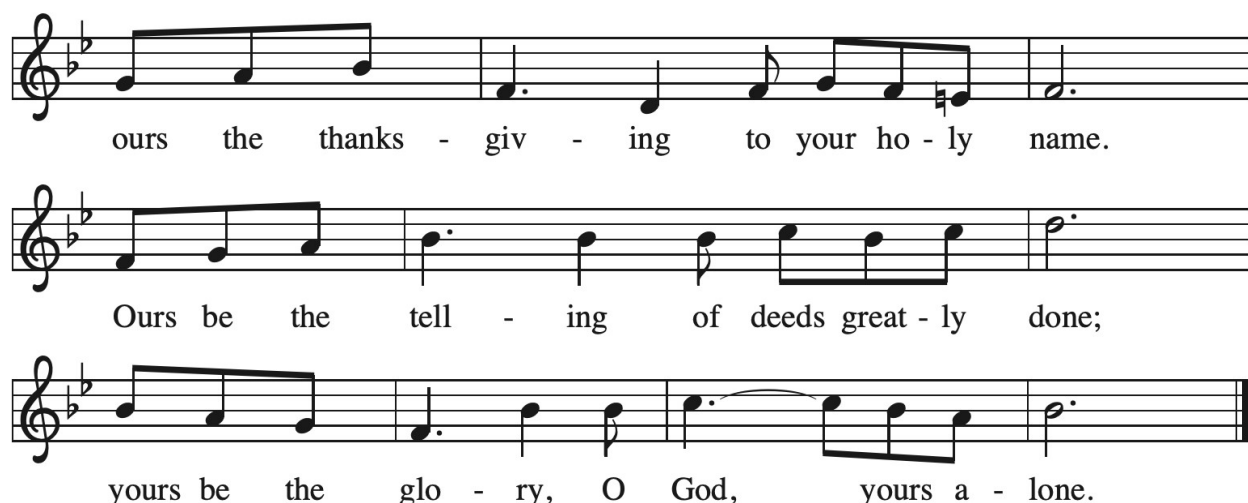


Musical notation for the Canticle of Praise, featuring three staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics "1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;" "2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;" "3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;". The second staff contains the lyrics "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." The third staff contains the lyrics "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;". The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and some rests.

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;



Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Commissioning of Healing Prayer Ministers

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 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Lector The first reading comes from Isaiah the 51st chapter.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

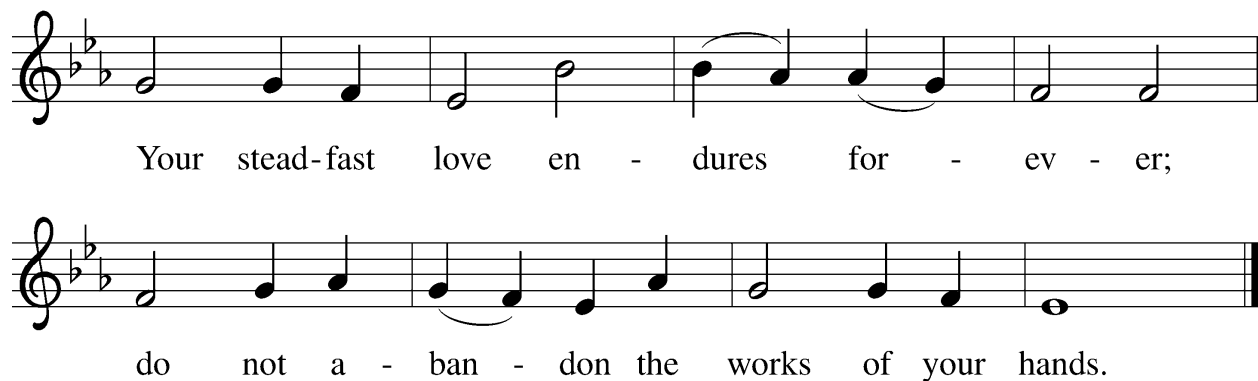
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,

and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.
Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

Psalm 138 (Refrain 2)

Thomas Pavlechko



Your steadfast love endures for - ev - er;
do not a - ban - don the works of your hands.

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;

before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.

³ When I called, you | answered me;

you increased my | strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O Lord,**

**when they have heard the words | of your
mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you | keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury
of my enemies; your right | hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands. R**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

Lector The second reading comes from Romans the 12th chapter.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to

God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them,

“But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

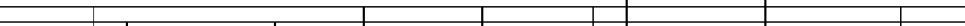
Please be seated.

Sermon

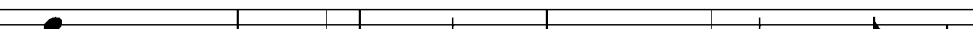
The Rev. Richard Rhoades

Please stand as able.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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.**

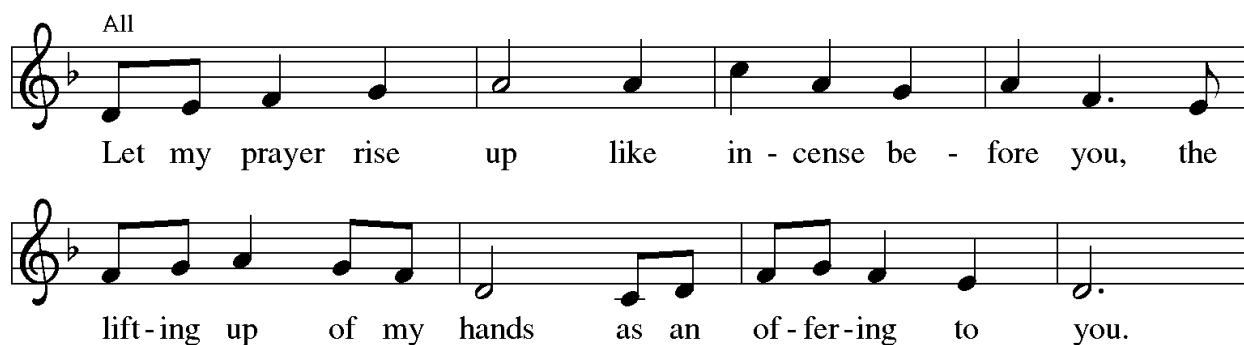
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Please stand as able.

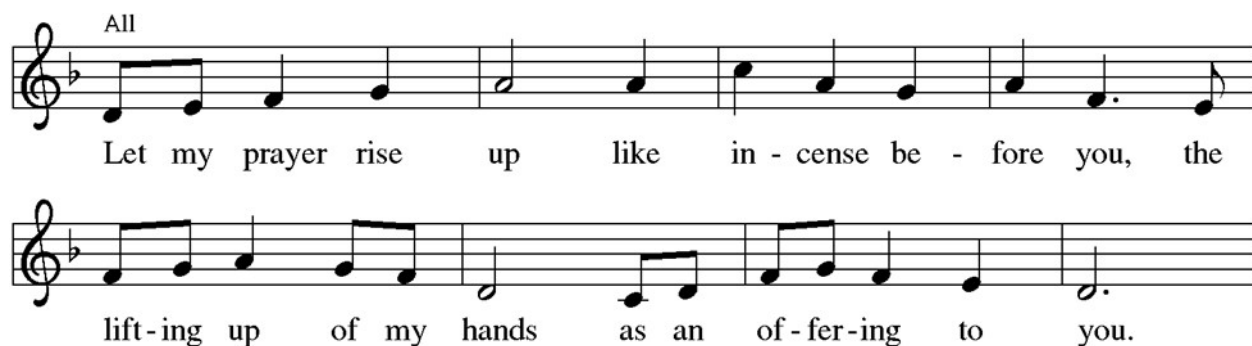


God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. We lift up Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schulz, and Haddad, our international partners in Peru, the Central African Republic, and the Maasai in Tanzania. Merciful God,

let our prayers rise up like incense before you.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

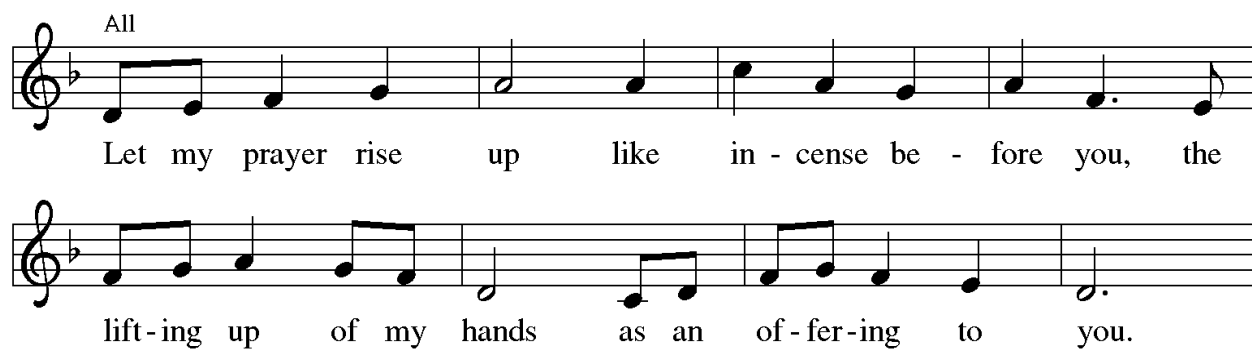
You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Raise up leaders who will seek peace, show mercy toward the poor and marginalized, and rule with justice. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**



You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, hunger, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. We pray especially for Patty, Daniel, Joyce, Angie, Danny, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now . . . Merciful God, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **let our prayers rise up like incense before you.**



Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, 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.



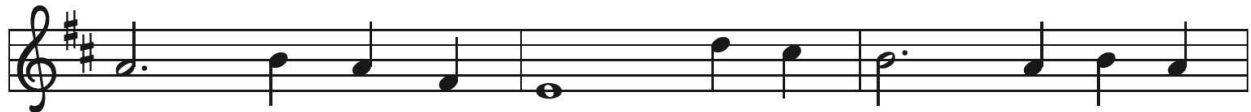
Please stand as able.

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

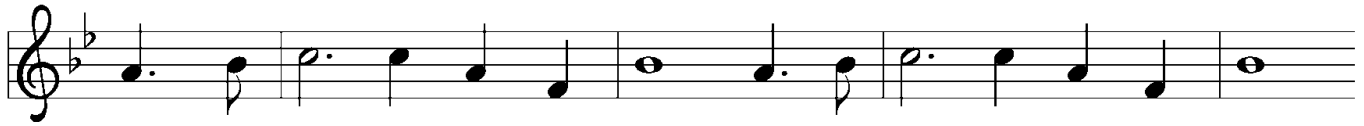
Music during the reception of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

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.



O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

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

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

revrhoades@firstlutherangalveston.com

Krista Scheuerman, Youth, Family & Communications

youth@firstlutherangalveston.com

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!

