

First Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation

Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!



Sunday, September 27, 2026

Eighteenth 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!



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Holy Communion 10:00am

Prelude & Gathering

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

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. We have sinned in thought, word and deed.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace

Amen.

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Tell Your Story: Carlos Peña

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: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

Lector The first reading comes from Ezekiel the 18th chapter.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?

³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no

more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9



Re - mem - ber, O LORD your com - pas - sion and love.

¹ To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put
to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are
treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. R**

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I
trusted all | the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my
transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

Lector The second reading comes from Philippians the 2nd chapter.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of
death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more
highly

and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

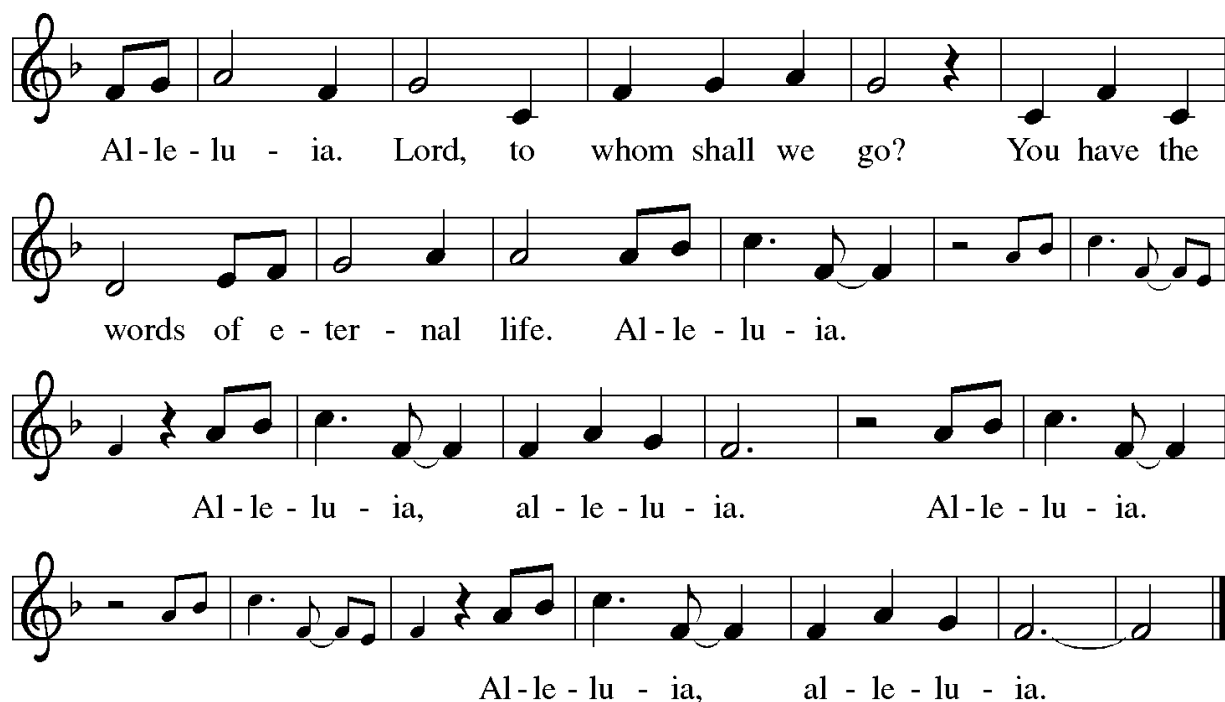
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have
always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on
your own salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling
you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able to receive the gospel.



Gospel

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. Matthew,
the 21st chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question;

if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Richard Rhoades

Please use the Sermon Questions in the Yellow Pages to go deeper in your reflections on the sermon this week.

Please stand as able.

O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Please stand as able.



Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths, and show all your love. We lift up Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schulz, and Haddad, our international partners in Peru, the Central African Republic, and the Maasai in Tanzania as they live your calling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of

humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, those struggling with addiction, incarceration, and all illness. We pray especially for Don, Daniel, Ann, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now . . . Put an end to human trafficking and grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Grant us creativity and compassion as we reach out to our neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest in your presence. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks for the hope in your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**



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

O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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 the 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.

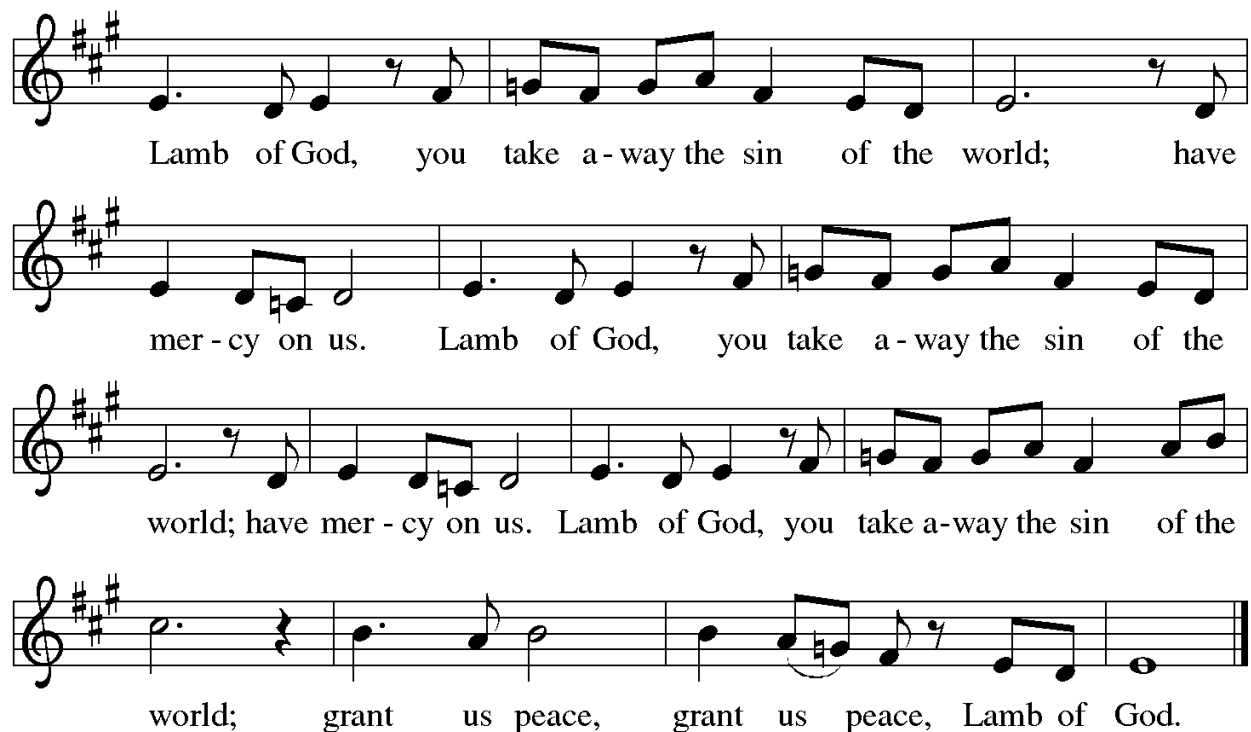
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen.**

Invitation To Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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, Lamb of God.

Please be seated.

Reception of Holy Communion

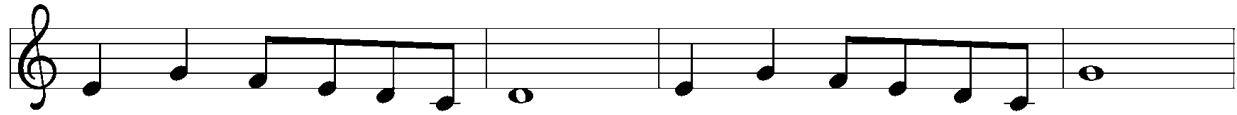
Music during the reception of Holy Communion

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 Hymns

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Please stand as able.

Communion Blessing

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

Prayer

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



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 out in joy! Be led forth in peace!

Thanks be to God. And we will!

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

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

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Krista Scheuerman, Youth, Family & Communications

youth@firstlutherangalveston.com

Don F. Hermanson, Director of Music/Organist

Annie Blanken, Executive Director, Fanfare Lutheran Music Academy

Christina Muehe, Director, Lyceum

Kim Robles, Nursery (Wiggle Room)

Let Us Know You Are Here!



ISLAND OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 23, 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 am – 11:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Set Up

Baking Cakes and Sweets

Multiple Booths

Kitchen Duty

Clean Up

EVERYONE's Help is NEEDED!

Sign-Up Today!!