

First Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation

Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!



Sunday, October 18, 2026

Twenty-first 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 today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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. Please kneel or be seated.

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.

You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Apostolic Greeting

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

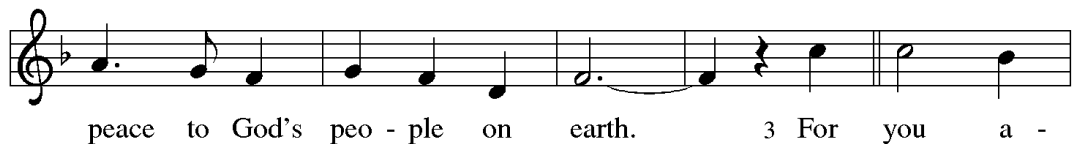
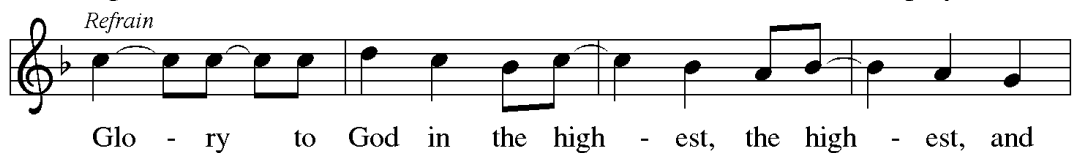
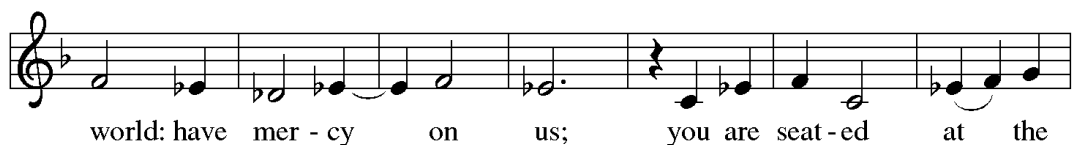
All And also with you.



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



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, 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 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Lector The first reading comes from Isaiah the 45th chapter.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your

name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;

I give you a title, though you do not
know me.

⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of
the sun
and from the west, that there is no one
besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9



- ¹ Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. R
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but
idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

**⁶ Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

**⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the
Lord. R**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Lector The second reading comes from 1
Thessalonians the 1st chapter.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering
before our God and Father your work of faith and
labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord
Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters
beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because
our message of the gospel came to you not in word
only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with

full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22nd chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice,

said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Richard Rhoades

Please stand as able.

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,
we pray for the church and the world.

Please kneel or be seated.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Sustain those who already are serving in proclaiming the gospel. We pray for Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schultz, and Haddad along with our ministry partners in Perus, the Central African Republic and the Maasai in Tanzania. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering including Pastor Doug, Diane, Jimmy, Donna, Danny, Don, Jim and those we name now... . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church including the Altar Guild. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through 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.

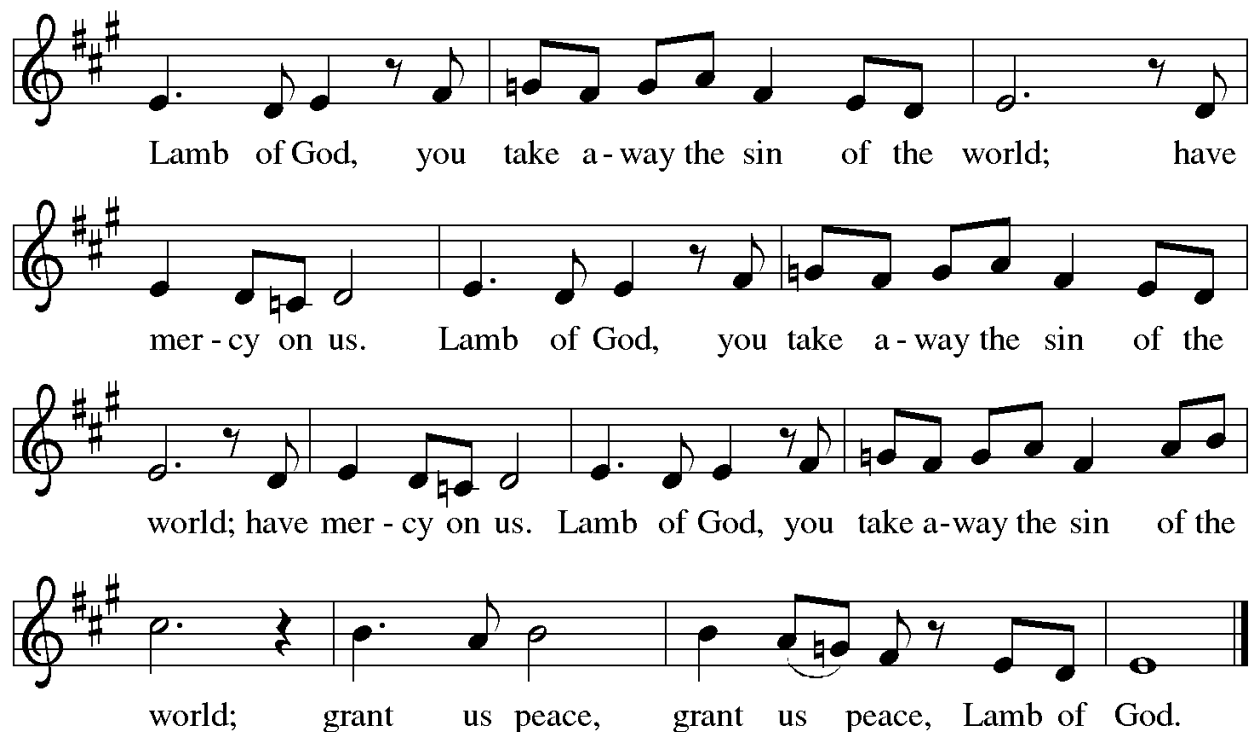
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

We Give Thee but Thine Own



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
- 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
- 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
- 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

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.

God of Grace and God of Glory



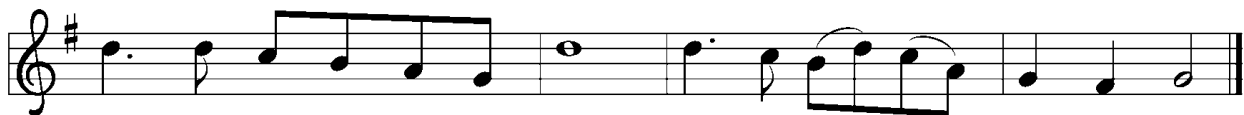
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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!

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, 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!!