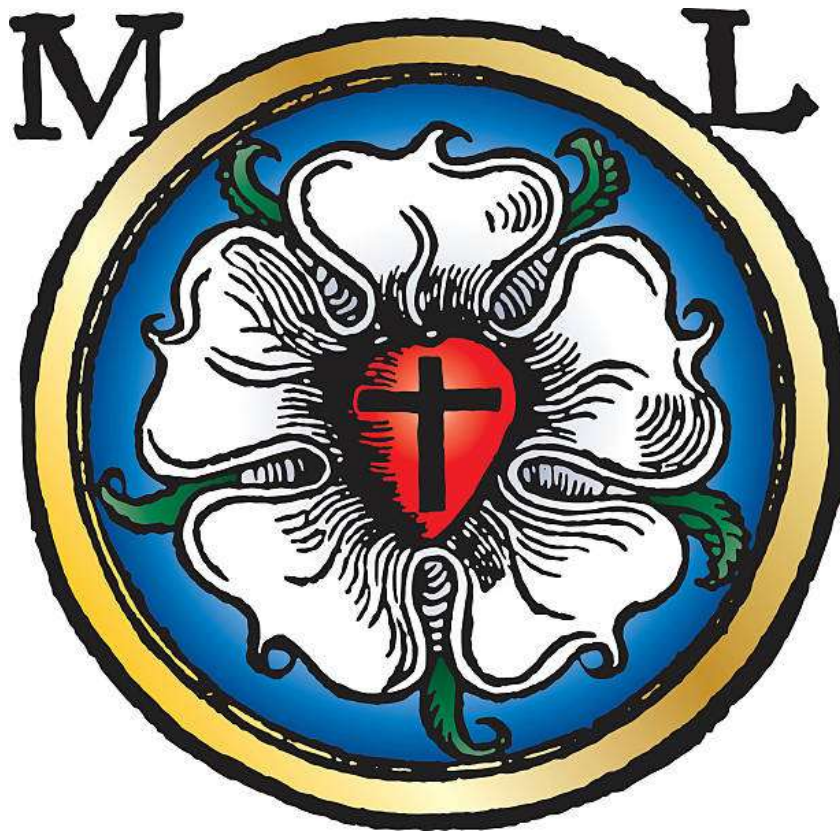


First Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation
Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston



Sunday, October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday Polka Worship
10:00 am Worship and Communion

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

We are thankful that You are here!

Reformation Sunday: Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

✝ indicates to make the sign of the cross.

If you are visiting First Lutheran, we invite you use the QR code to let us know you are here! You may also use an envelope in the pew to share your information with us! We are glad you are here!



Prelude

Liechensteiner Polka	Tubameisters
Pennsylvania Polka	First Lutheran Woodwinds
Wien Bleibt Wien	Tubameisters
Hupfata Polka	First Lutheran Woodwinds
In Munich Steht	Tubameisters
Artist Life and Emperor Waltzes	First Lutheran Woodwinds
Auf der Autobahn	Tubameisters

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as able

Pastor Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

All Amen

Pastor Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Please kneel or be seated as able.

Pastor Steadfast and faithful God,

All you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Forgive us for all our sins. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven and freed. **Amen.**

*The assembly stands as able to join in the gathering hymn.
Please turn toward the entrance aisle following the processional cross as it leads into worship.*

Processional Hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 whom God himself elected.
 You ask who this may be?
 The Lord of hosts is he!
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
 all threat'ning to devour us,
 we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
 they cannot overpow'r us.
 Let this world's tyrant rage;
 in battle we'll engage!
 His might is doomed to fail;
 God's judgment must prevail!
 One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;
 for God himself fights by our side
 with weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our house,
 goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 though life be wrenched away,
 they cannot win the day.
 The kingdom's ours forever!

Apostolic Greeting

Pastor 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.

Hymn of Praise

Tune: Du, Du, liegst mir im Herzen
Lord, Lord, We Do All Praise You

1. Lord, Lord, we do all
praise you, Lord, Lord
you are the Christ!
Lord, Lord, we do all praise you.
Great is your
love to us
all. Yes, yes,
yes, yes.
Great is your love to us all.
2. Lord, Lord, you are
our Savior. Lord, Lord,
you are our Prize.
Lord, Lord, you are our Victor.
Great is your
peace to us
all. Yes, yes,
yes, yes.
Great is your peace to us all.
3. Lord, Lord, we do all
thank you. Lord, Lord,
you are the way!
Lord, Lord, we do all thank you.
Great is your
grace to us
all. Yes, yes,
yes, yes.
Great is your grace to us all!

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Children gather on the chancel steps.

Children's Message

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

Lector The first reading comes from Jeremiah the 31st chapter.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

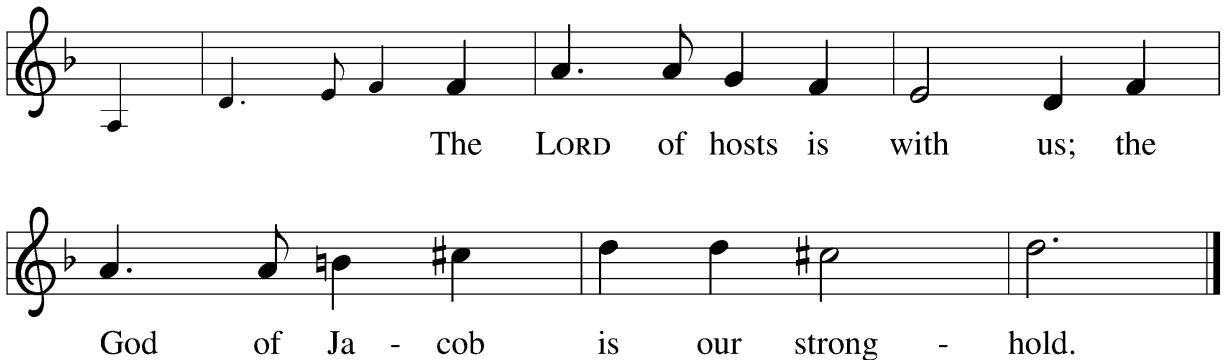
Lector Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 46 (Refrain 1)

Rick Erickson



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
- ⁷ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |
shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the
earth."
- ¹¹ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

Lector The second reading comes from Romans the 3rd chapter.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Lector Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able to receive the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Speak Through the Gospel

Tune: Traditional

Verse 1 We come to You, O Lord, because You call us.
 We come to You, O Lord, because You want us.
 We come to You, O Lord, because You love us.
 Speak through the Gospel. Open our ears.

Verse 2 We come to You, O Lord, because we need You.
 We come to You, O Lord, help us to see You.
 We come to You, O Lord, because we love You.
 Speak through the Gospel. Open our eyes.

Verse 3 Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and feed us.
 Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and free us.
 Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and lead us.
 Speak through the Gospel. Open our hearts.

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word.
He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

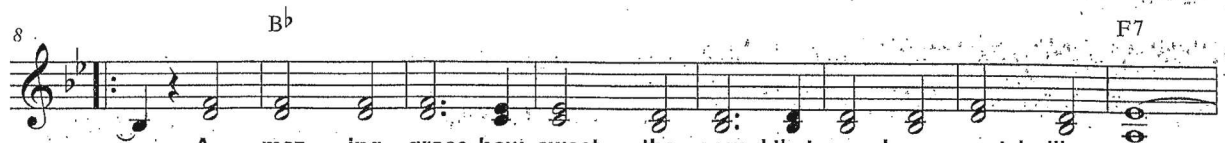
Sermon

Rev. Richard A. Rhoades

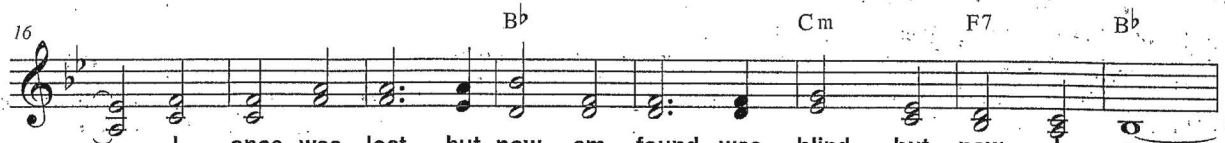
Please stand as able.

Great Hymns of Faith Medley (Happy Wanderer Polka)

arr. Rolf Svanoe



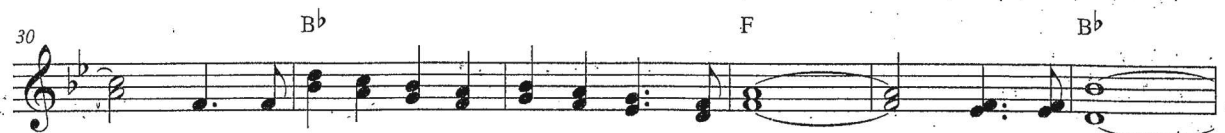
A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
Oh for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - ers praise.
All hail the pow'r of Je - sus name, let an - gels pros - trate fall.
My God how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright.
In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
O God our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come.



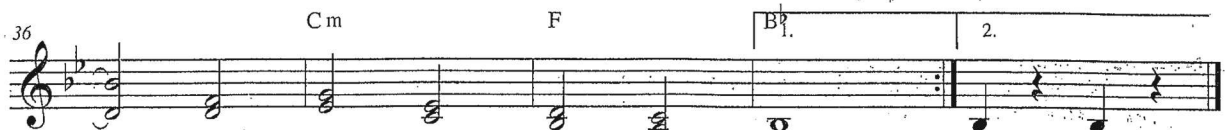
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
The glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umph of his grace.
Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light.
but one great fel - low-ship of love through-out the whole wide earth.
Our shel - ter in the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.



Je - sus Christ, cru - ci - fied, rose a - gain.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Now he lives, all to save.



Sing hymns of praise to God.

Creed

Asst With the whole church, we join in professing the Christian Faith.

**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

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

A brief silence.

Gracious God, as we remember the Reformation, we thank you for all those who have worked to hold the church accountable to its mission. Protect them as they speak truth to power. Inspire them as they show others your grace and love. We lift up Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schulz, and Haddad, our international partners in Peru, the Central African Republic, and the Maasai in Tanzania. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the beauty of the world's islands, coastlines, and our beloved Gulf. Keep them and their inhabitants safe from harm. Teach us to be good stewards of your world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for the diversity of humankind, made in your image. We pray for the future of endangered languages and cultures. Preserve them to show forth your glory. Help us to see you in every human. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for reuniting of estranged and missing loved ones, for those who are incarcerated and those who are oppressed in spirit. We pray for the healing of all who are sick or injured, especially those who cannot access medical care. We remember those whom we love who are suffering or in pain, including Danny Gillane, Donna Bekkema, Don Anderson, Jim Bremer, Carla Sandborn-Jones, Kay Donahoo, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for retired clergy and their families, including Pastor Doug and Mary Lee and Pastor Grant and Nancy, and Kay Hoh, honoring their faithful service to your church. Bless them as they find new ways to live into their vocation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for all the faithful departed who taught us to love God and our neighbor. By their example, help us to seek after you with heart, soul, and mind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 Passing of Peace is an act of reconciliation.

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.

All And also with you.

*You are welcome to greet those near you with words of peace.
Following the Passing of the Peace, please be seated while the altar is
prepared for communion.*

Offering

*The offering is an expression of gratitude to God and supports the
furthering of the Gospel through the ministry of the Church.*

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



Anthem

New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie

Halleluja (Hallelujah)

Bobi Oshrat-Ventoora, b. 1944 und Shimrit Or, b. 1945

Arr. Pasquale Thibaut und Peter Schnur

(Anthem will be sung in German)

Hallelujah, sing a song. Hallelujah, we sing with the sky, land, and sea, night
and wind,

And with every morning that begins anew. Everyone, join in. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah, song of the world that illumines the paths of our life

Hallelujah rings and sings in our heart. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah, at the top of your lungs. Hallelujah, wherever you look, flowers,
sunshine, forest, field,

and every bird in the sky. Everyone, sing a song I Hallelujah

Hallelujah, song of the world that illumines the paths of our I life.

Hallelujah rings and sings in our heart, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Thank You! Hallelujah, for the miracles that happen every day.

Hallelujah, with happiness we bring the whole world along. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah, song of the world that illumines the paths of our life.

Hallelujah rings and sings in our heart, Hallelujah!

Please stand as able.

Offering Hymn

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The Chor will sing first in German.

The congregation will join a second time in English.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

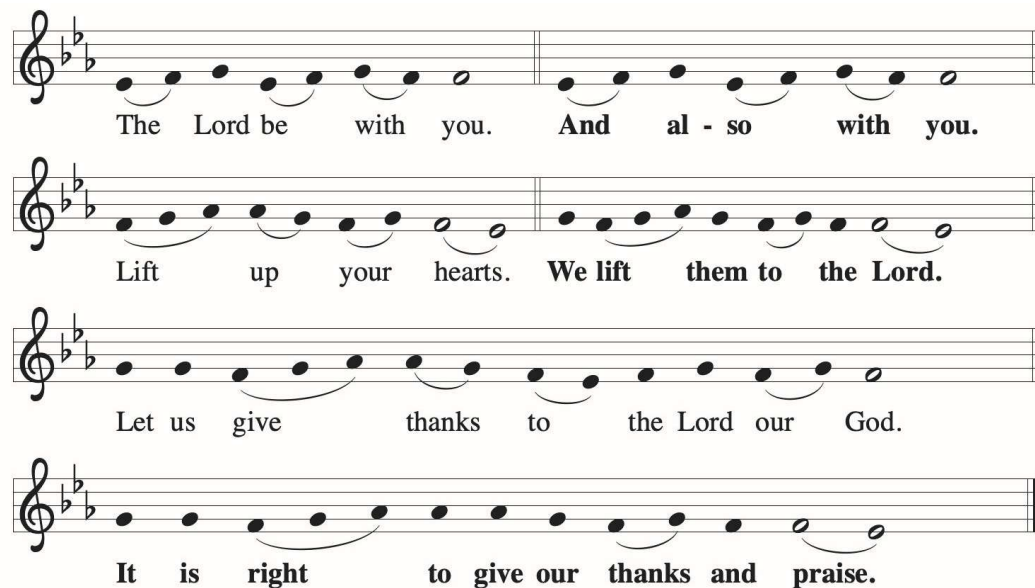
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

Asst 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

All Amen

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface and Sanctus

Pastor

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have proclaimed an eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. For this Gospel, centered in Jesus Christ, we give You glory, and we worship You, who made heaven and earth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



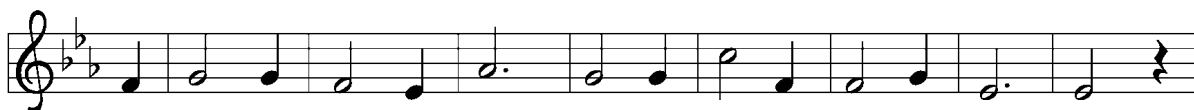
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Please kneel as able or be seated.

Pastor Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and
ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who
share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus
Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be
all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught
US.

**All 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

Pastor Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

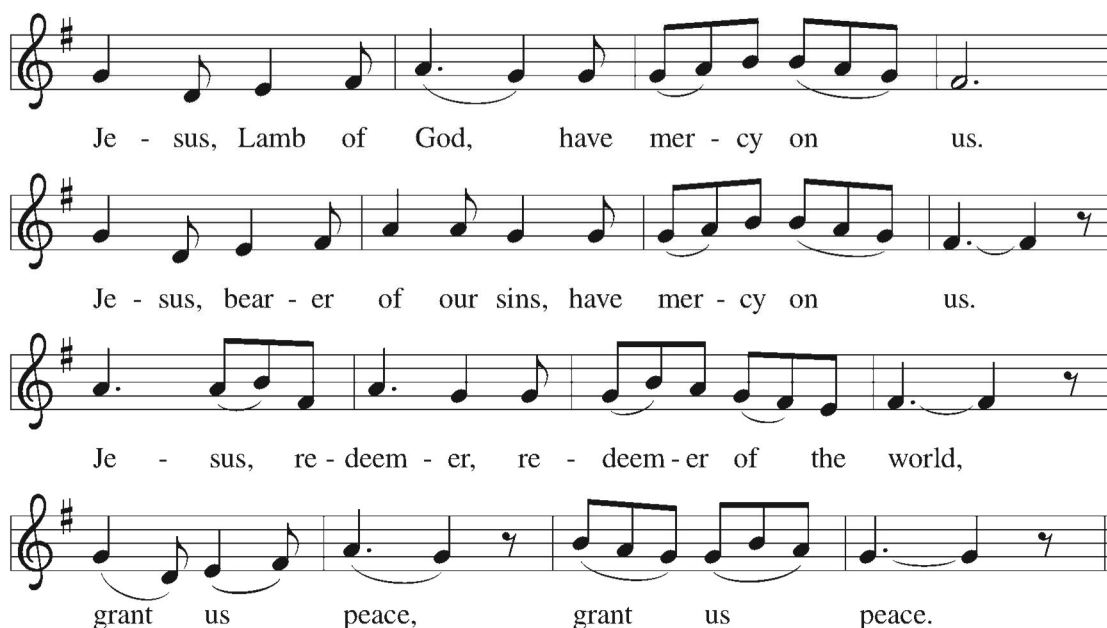
Distribution

Ushers will direct you to come forward to receive the promise of God's grace in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. As you come forward you will step up into the chancel. Walk to the server at the communion rail to receive the bread (Body of Christ). Extend your hand toward the celebrant who will place a wafer of bread on your open palm. If you require gluten-free, let the pastor know. You may respond with the affirmation, "Amen." Step to the side to eat the wafer. Step to the communion tray station where an assistant invite you to pick up your own prefilled cup of red wine or white grape juice (Blood of Christ). You may again offer the affirmation, "Amen." Then step to the side to drink the wine and place the used cup in the basket at the side aisle as your return to your pew. Baptized Christians desiring the sacrament are invited to receive. If you desire only a blessing, come forward placing your arms over your chest to let the pastor know to offer you a blessing. Non-communing children will receive a blessing.

You may also go the Chapel after receiving communion for healing prayer or to light a candle on the Tree of Life.

Jesus, Lamb of God

(first verse sung by Chor Harmonie in German, all sing second verse in English)



Communion

New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie

Locus iste (This Place) Albert Bruckner (1824-1896)

This place was made by God,
An inestimable holy place. It is without blame.
This place was made by God.

Bleiv vei uns

Music and Text: Martin Buchholz

You see the paths we take. You know what moves us.
Even if we don't understand ourselves, you hold us firmly in your hand.

(Chorus) Stay with us! Stay with us day and night.
Stay with us! Stay with us, watch over us!

You see what we can no longer understand. Even if the storm hasn't subsided.
You are the strength we trust; you are the love that carries us through. (chorus)

You are the spirit that inspires us. The fire that rekindles us.
You love life unbridled. And we trust in your power. (Chorus)

Please stand as able.

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

Prayer

Asst 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.

Choral Blessing The Lord Bless You and Keep You

(Gott Segne Und Behüt Dich)

Music: John Rutter German Lyrics: Alex Grendelmeier

Benediction

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

All Amen.

Pastor The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all
circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit.

All Amen.

Pastor The God of grace ✙ bless you now and forever.

All Amen.

*Please turn following the processional cross as it leads us to the exit through
which we return to the world from worship to follow Jesus, loving all.*

Sending Song

Tune: Beer Barrell Polka

Go Now and Serve Him

Intro: *With Rhythmic Clapping*

Verse: Go now and serve Him, Serve Jesus, Savior and King.
Go tell the story, Of the salvation He brings.
Let us be faithful, Let us go forth with God's Word,
For no one should be forgotten, Let God's message be
heard.

With varied talents, all useful to our great Lord,
Go now and serve Him, let every gift be employed.
We have one purpose, touch every life that we can,
Let us plan and work together, go God's love fill the land.

God tell the story, of Jesus, Savior and King.
Go with the Good News, tell how forgiveness He brings.
Tell how He loves us, Suffered and died in our place.
Go and tell the joyful story, Of His kindness and grace.

Dismissal

Asst Jesus call us to be a community,

All embracing all; nourishing mind, body and spirit.

Asst We go into the world.

All Following Jesus – Loving All!

Asst Go out in joy! Be led forth in peace!

All Thanks be to God. And we will!!

Postlude

Old Comradés March
Alte Kameraden
Cark Tieke

Tubameisters

First Lutheran Church
2415 Avenue G
Galveston, Texas 77550

409-762-8477

www.firstlutherangalveston.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:00am to 12:00pm, 12:30pm to 3:00pm

The People of First Lutheran, Ministers

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Don F. Hermanson, Director of Music/Organist

Annie Blanken, Executive Director, Fanfare Lutheran Music Academy
director@fanfarelma.com

Christina Muehe, Director, Lyceum
info@lyceumgalveston.com

Kim Robles, Nursery (Wiggle Room)

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number is: **SAS028158**

Let Us Know You Are Here!



Danke Schön!!

First Lutheran Church and the Island Oktoberfest express our joyful thanks to the **New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie, the Tubameisters, Kelsey Scheuerman and Krista Scheuerman (instrumentalists), First Lutheran Choiristers** for once again filling the Reformation Polka Service with energy, music and joy! There is truly no better way to wrap up Oktoberfest weekend than with this lively and faith-filled celebration!

We also give a loud shout-out and Gig 'Em to the incredible **Texas A & M Aggies** who volunteer and show up every year to help make the Island Oktoberfest a success. Your hard work and spirit keep the fun going strong!

And a huge thank you to **YOU** for being part of the Island Oktoberfest (including the Polka Worship) – thank you for being part of the Island Oktoberfest family!

