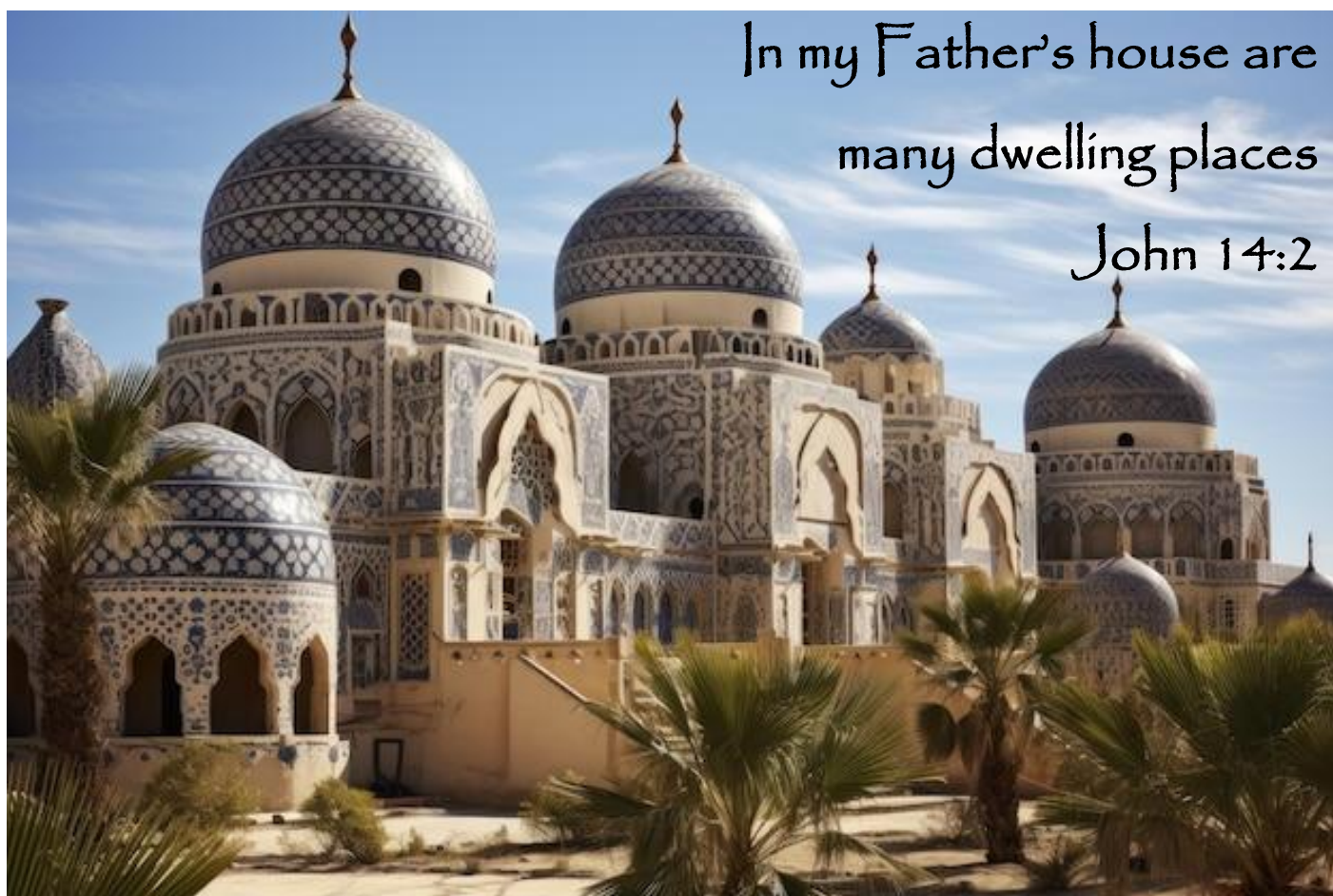


First Lutheran

relationships that transform



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2026 **8:15 am & 10:45 am**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to the service just before Holy Communion.

PRELUDE

I Worship You, Almighty God

The Chancel Choir

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
And of the ✝ Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

Let us make personal confession of our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. 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 sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG

ELW 856

How Great Thou Art



Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



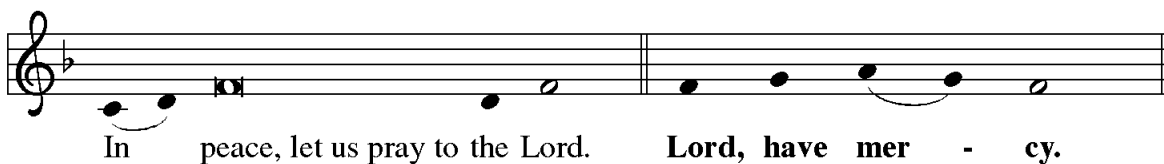
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

GREETING

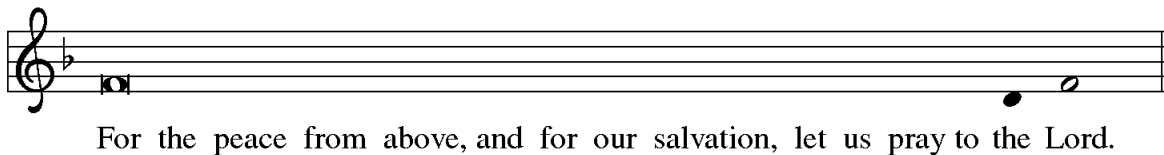
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

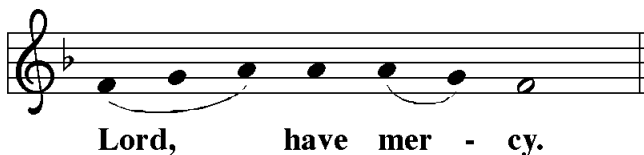
SETTING 3



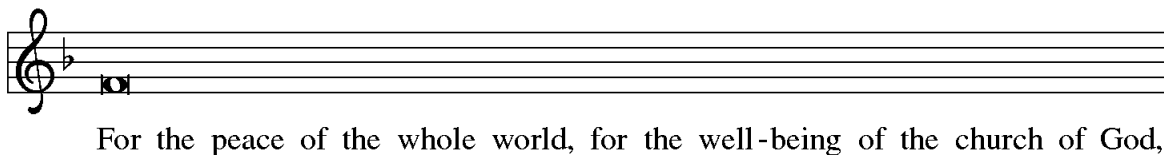
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



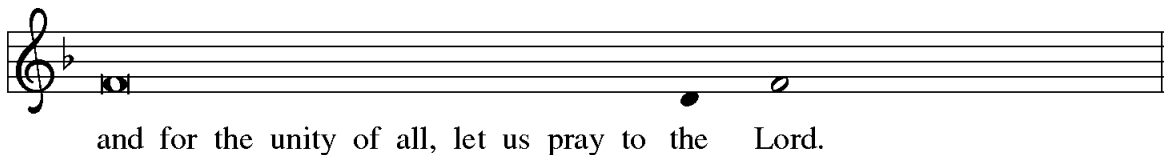
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



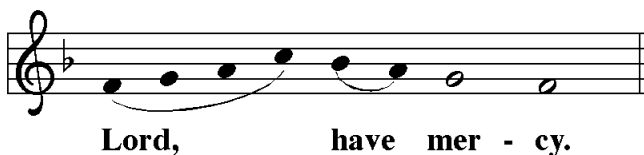
Lord, have mer - cy.



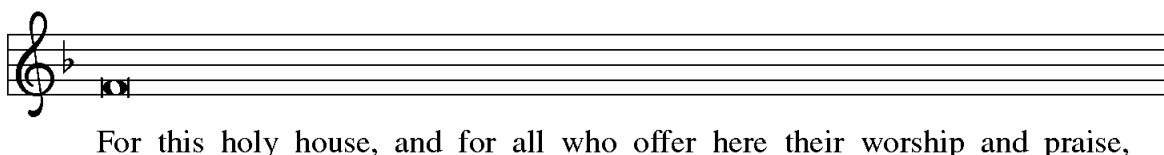
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



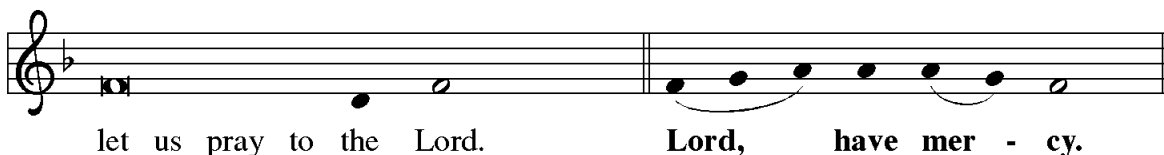
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



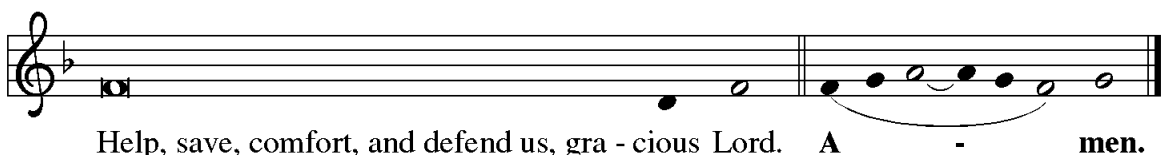
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

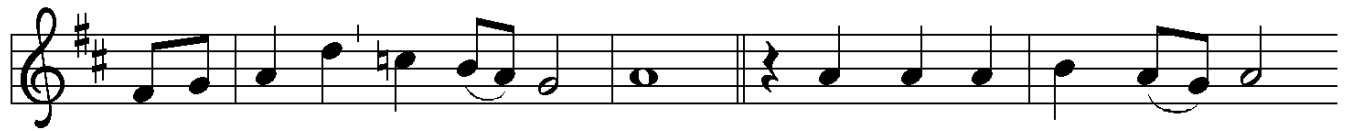


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



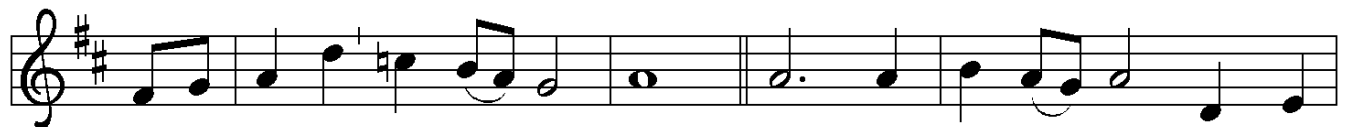
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



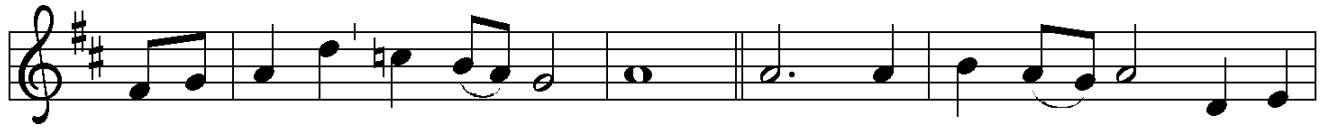
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

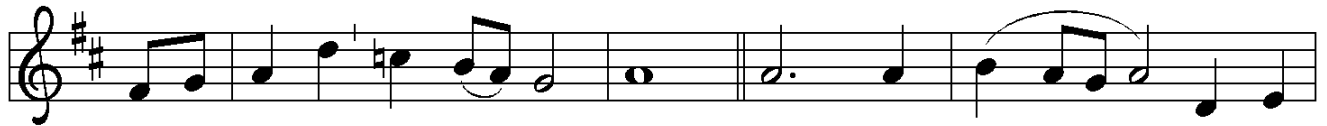


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

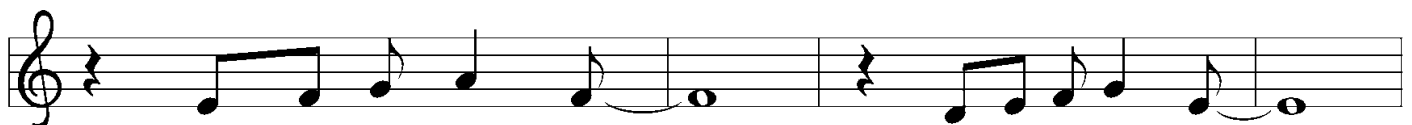
Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN

ELW 801

Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, your servant as they read to us the Holy Word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55 – 60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2 – 10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA!

Fintan O'Carroll/Christopher Walker

REFRAIN

(Refrain sung by Cantor, then ALL sings before and after verse)

Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ia. _____

1, Final D.S. Fine 2 to Verse

GOSPEL: John 14:1 – 14

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

The Way, The Truth, and The Life for You

Pastor Jeff Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 758

You Are the Way



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

Let My Prayer Rise Up

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One

O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my
voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like

in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an
of - fer - ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing
bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of
 life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.
 Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
 lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy

Congregational response: Hear our prayer

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
 lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

The Way, The Truth, The Life

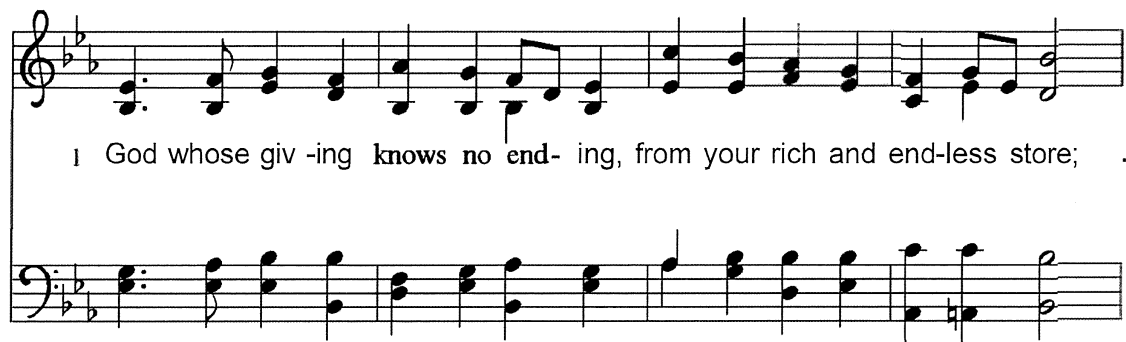
The Chancel Choir

Please stand.

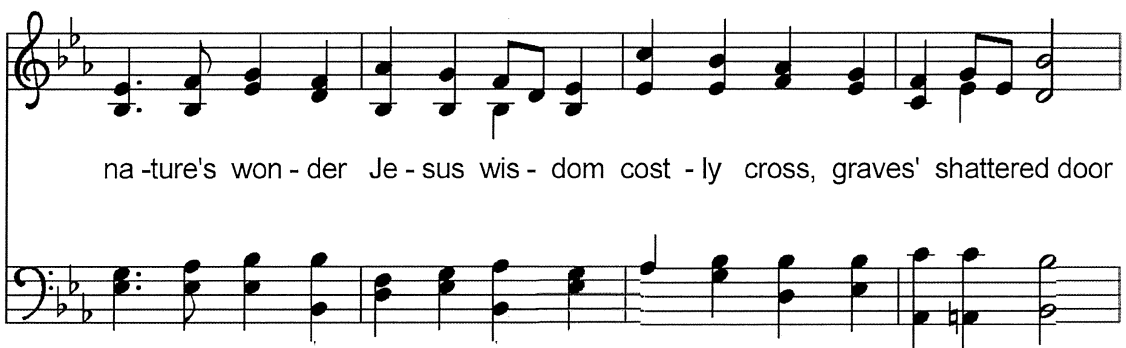
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

God, Whose Giving, Knows No Ending



1 God whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end-less store;



na - ture's won - der Je - sus wis - dom cost - ly cross, graves' shattered door



gift - ed by you we turn to you of - f'ring up our selves in praise;



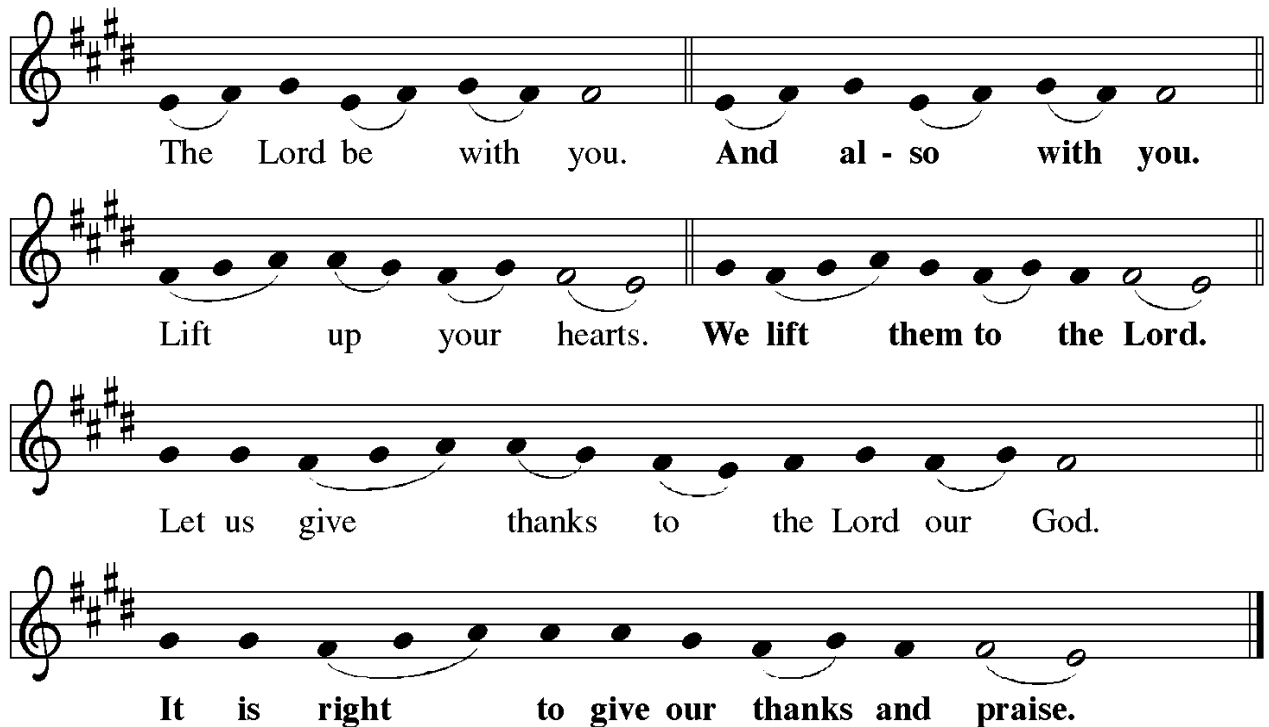
thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er gra - cious do - nor of our days.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

THE 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.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

Please be seated.

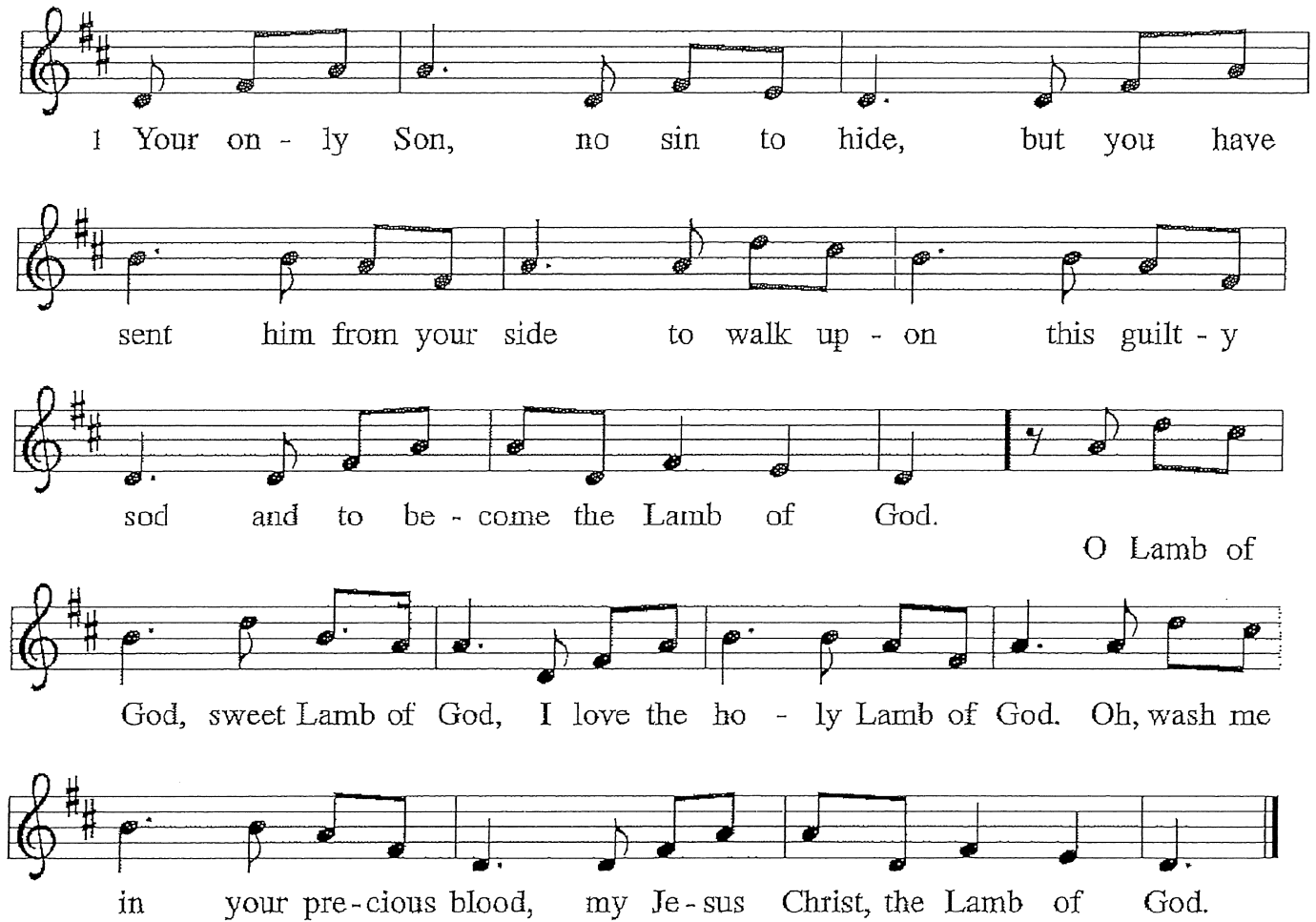
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

Lamb of God

Your Only Son

336



I Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

In Remembrance

Words and Music by
Ragan Courtney and Beryl Red

VERSE 1 & 2

♩ = 84

$A\flat$ Cm $D\flat$ $E\flat 7sus$ $D\flat/E\flat$ $D\flat$

1. In re - mem - brance of Me, eat this bread. In re - mem - brance of
 (2. In re) - mem - brance of Me, heal the sick. In re - mem - brance of

$B\flat m$ $E\flat$ $E\flat 7$ $E\flat 7sus$ Fm $D\flat$ $G\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat sus$ $A\flat$

Me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the time when God's own
 Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, o - pen the door and let your

1

2

BRIDGE

Cm $D\flat maj 7$ $B\flat m 7$ $E\flat$ $D\flat maj 7$ $A\flat/C$ $B\flat m 7$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat$ $F\flat$

will is done. 2. In re in, let him in. Take, eat, and be
 broth-er

$A\flat$ $F\flat$ $A\flat$ $A\flat/C$ Fm $E\flat$ $D\flat$

com - fort - ed, drink and re - mem - ber, too, that this is My bod - y and pre - cious

VERSE 3

$A\flat$ $B\flat 7sus$ $A\flat/C$ $B\flat$ $A\flat/B\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat sus$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ Cm $D\flat$

blood shed for you, shed for you. 3. In re - mem - brance of Me, search for truth.

$E\flat 7sus$ $D\flat/E\flat$ $D\flat$ $B\flat m$ $E\flat$ $E\flat 7$ $E\flat 7sus$ Fm $D\flat$ $G\flat$

In re - mem - brance of Me, al - ways love. In re - mem - brance of Me don't look a -

48 Eb Absus Ab Cm Db Db/Eb Ab Db

-bove, but in your heart, look in your heart for God. Do this in re -

56 Db/Eb Eb7sus Ab

- mem - brance of Me.

HYMN

ELW 485

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.”
ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er.”
blood, you shall not have life with - in you.”
die, you shall live for - ev - er.”
come in - to the world.

Refrain
All



“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day.”



Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m7

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Em7 A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em-

D F#m7

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re-

Em7

<i>Optional repeat</i>	D	G/A A	<i>Last time</i>
			D

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



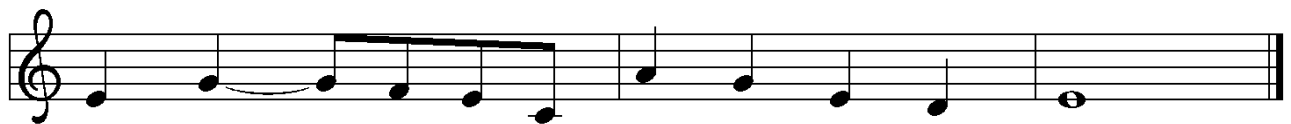
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

BENEDICTION

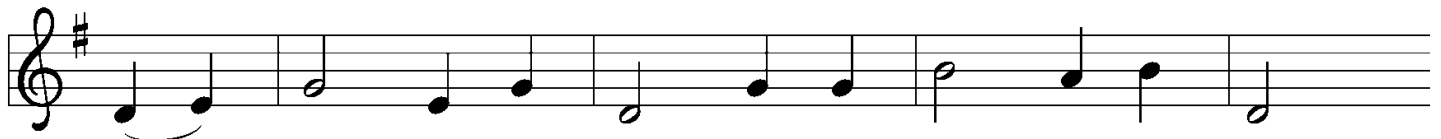
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

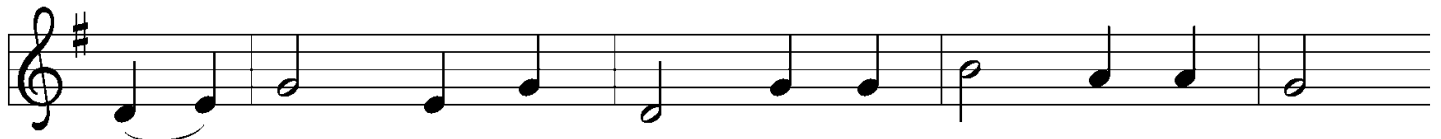
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

Amen.

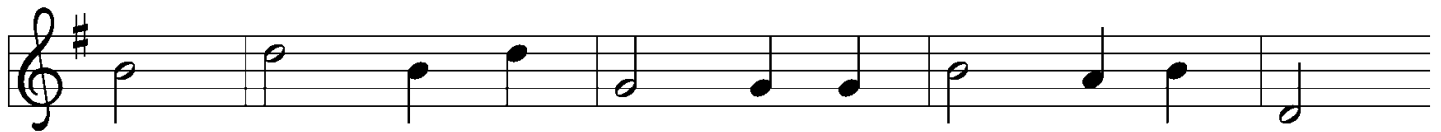
How Firm a Foundation



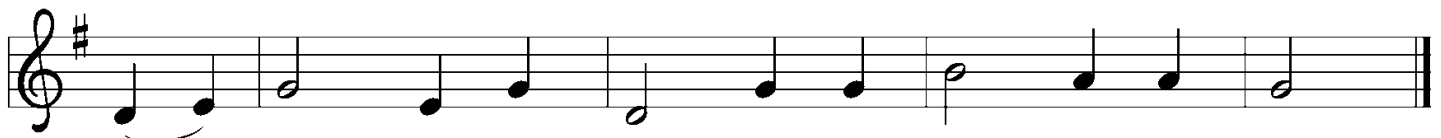
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



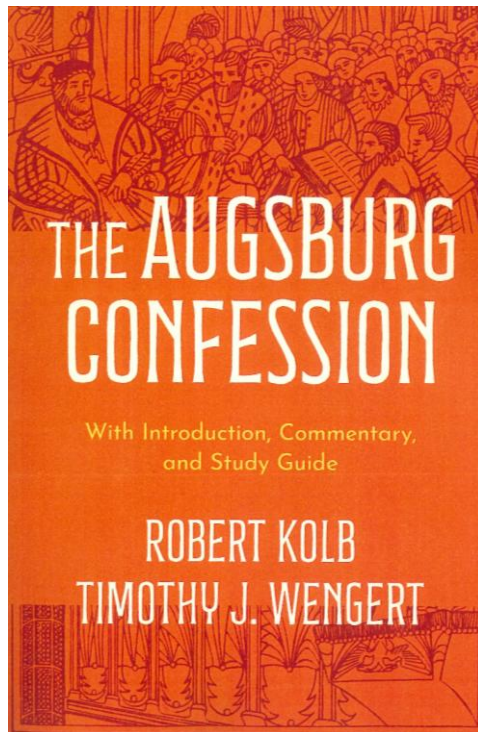
What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Sunday School Class beginning May 31st

Facilitators: Pastor Jeff & Bill Anderson

Sign-up in the narthex for the class

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Monday, May 4	Tuesday, May 5	Wednesday, May 6
<p>Church officed closed.</p> <p>The staff will be traveling to the Metroplex to meet with Bishop Gronberg.</p>	<p>9:30 am Friendship Circle</p> <p>1:00 pm Birds of a Feather meeting at Divine Catering.</p> <p>3:30 – 5:30 pm Success Center</p> <p>5:30 pm Fitness Class</p> <p>6:30 pm Family Improvement</p> <p>6:30 pm Spiritual Journey</p> <p>Scouts of America</p>	<p>10:00 am Quilters</p> <p>5:00 – 6:00 pm Dinner for everyone!</p> <p>5:45 pm Bell Choir</p> <p>6:00 pm Mentoring Plus & Youth Group</p> <p>6:00 pm Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 pm Youth Activity Hour</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>
Thursday, April 30	Friday, May 1	Saturday, May 2
<p>12:00 pm National Day of Prayer observance at the Gregg County Courthouse lawn.</p> <p>3:30 – 5:30 pm Success Center</p> <p>5:30 pm Fitness Class</p>		<p>7:00 am Newgate Breakfast</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p>10:00 am Classic Quilters</p>
Sunday, May 3	Volunteer Schedule this week: May 3	Volunteer Schedule next week: May 10
<p>8:15 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church.</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church.</p> <p>6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>Lector:</p> <p>8:15 am: Beverly Bell</p> <p>10:45 am: Leslie Jenkins</p> <p>Communion:</p> <p>Set up: Carolyn Ramirez</p> <p>Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins</p> <p>Offering Counters:</p> <p>Ranette Carter & Arlene Hicks</p>	<p>Lector:</p> <p>8:15 am: Ed Bero</p> <p>10:45 am: Bill Anderson</p> <p>Communion:</p> <p>Set up: Carol & Ray Bird</p> <p>Clean Up: Teresa DeShazer & Randi McRae</p> <p>Offering Counters:</p> <p>Deb Butts & Mary Stuart</p>
<p>Readings for in preparation for Sunday, May 10</p> <p>Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21</p>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Given by Bill Anderson
in memory of
Linda Anderson.

There is a sign-up book available for anyone
who would like to give flowers for the altar. See
the sign-up counter in the narthex.

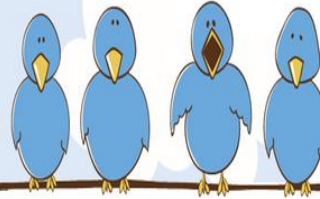
Tuesday Morning Bible Study

**FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE**

May 5th 9:30 am

**Meeting May 5th @ 1:00 pm
at Divine Catering**

1310 South Mobberly, Longview



*Birds of a Feather
Flock Together*

Ladies Group

× × × × ATTENTION MEN × × × ×

**SATURDAY
MORNING
BREAKFAST**

**May 9th @ 8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall**



The Classic Quilters Group meets on Saturday,
May 9th in the activity room.
See Susan Kay Smith for information.

**THE NATIONAL
DAY OF PRAYER**

May 7, 2026

**12:00 pm
Gregg County
Courthouse Lawn**







COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Leo & Melba Sparkman Memorial Scholarship In honor and memory of Leo and Melba Sparkman, an annual college scholarship has been established for members of First Lutheran Church who are high school students planning to attend college upon graduation.

Applications are available through the church office. These must be returned by May 15 with a transcript, teacher recommendation, statement of needs and future aspirations.

For more information contact
Shirley 903-736-3915

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Classes offered on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

- **Reflective Bible Study**
Led by Vivian McElligott
- **Study of the book of Genesis**
Led by Kevin Bond

FINANCIAL REPORT

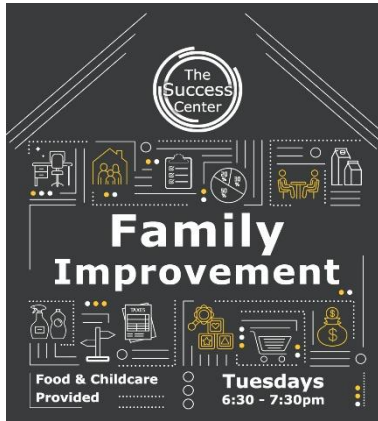
Church Cash Flow Year to Date as of:

04/28/2026

Regular Church Offering: 2026	
Contributions:	\$ 212,337
Expenditures:	\$ 212,816
Difference:	\$ (479)

Building Maintenance Fund Activity: 2026	
Contributions:	\$ 17,004
Expenditures:	\$ 5,077
Difference:	\$ 11,927

Weekly First Lutheran Happenings



Do you know a family that is struggling with managing all that life brings? Invite them to join our Family Improvement class where practical teaching helps parents and families build better lives! Contact John Parsons for more information 903-295-7423.

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. Those who are willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or Donna Louvier who is coordinating the meals (903-399-8553) or donnalouvier@gmail.com



The Success Center
Tutoring & Mentoring
for children up
to 5th grade.

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

TUESDAYS
6:30 PM

Join us in taking steps that can help develop a healthy, peaceful, and harmonious relationship with God, with others, and with yourself.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, & the wisdom to know that one is Me. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus Christ did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that Jesus will make all things right if I surrender to His will. So, that I may be reasonably happy in this life & supremely happy with Him forever & ever in the next! Amen!

SERENITY PRAYER

First Lutheran Church
3901 Bill Owens Parkway
Longview, Texas 75605
(903) 295-7423

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

10:00 am Quilters

5:00 – 6:00 pm Dinner for everyone!

5:45 pm Bell Choir

6:00 pm Mentoring Plus & Youth Group

6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Youth Activity Hour

7:00 pm Choir

For more information contact the church office
903-295-7423

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: prayerchain@firstlutheran.us

FLC Members

Marti Jean Kraus, born to Jake & Terry on April 1.

Lakeita Walker is recovering from surgery.

Lois Boldt is in hospice care.

Joseph Carlson has a bad infection in his foot.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey	Robert Kohnfelder	Durwin Sewell
Mary Ann Gamel	Chuck & Paula Kaplan	Bruno Schueler
Patty Lowe	Johnnie Owens	Joseph Carlson
Albert Holmen		

Family and Friends of FLC Members

Bonnie Click, infant twin daughter of Billy & Patricia was born with a hole in her heart. Pray that it closes up on its own as she grows.

Jenny Jenkins, daughter of Leslie & Stewart Jenkins, is recovering from neck surgery.

Rev. Elaine Berg, cousin to Carolyn Ramirez, is recovering from a broken elbow and arm.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Ft. Meade, MD

Timothy Martin – Navy

Terrina Anderson – White House Military Office

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 3, 2026

Love, Love, Love

That's what it's all about! Jesus loves.

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation.

Jesus loves.

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller
and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: 8:15 am Deb Butts,
Eric Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

10:45 am: Diane Borgwardt

Lectors:

8:15 am: Beverly Bell

10:45 am: Leslie Jenkins

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Steve Howie, Facilities Coordinator

2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Beverly Bell (*President*)

Randy Cathey (*Vice-President*)

Arlene Hicks (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Mary Stuart (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world. An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate or by scanning the QR code below



FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community with financial, volunteer, and food offerings:

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

For more information on how to get involved contact the church office (903)295-7423.