

Following the traumatic events of the crucifixion and a terrifying resurrection, the disciples in their confusion and grief had to be wondering, What's next?

The lectionary readings for the Easter season provide the road map ahead as the disciples discover a new post-resurrection life and reality:

Christ is with us. Behind closed doors, in our doubt, on our journey, in water, bread, and wine, the Good Shepherd calls us to follow, going before us to prepare the way, bringing peace, breathing the Spirit on us, so that we may tell this story to people of every land and nation. Jesus' promise to be with us always is the game changer.

Pastor: Rev. Gabriella Conklin

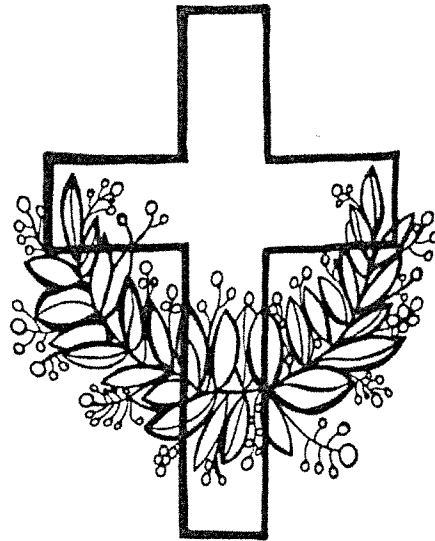
Music Director: Dr. Vivian Munn

Cantor: Claudio Esquivel

Organist: Marilyn Martin

First Lutheran Church
302 S. Sugar Rd.
Edinburg, TX 78539

Office Hours
Tues.-Fri.
10:00am-3:00pm



5th Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2026
10:30am

Welcome to First Lutheran Church, Edinburg, Texas during the

Season of Easter. We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us. First Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

As Lutherans, we confess our belief that the Holy Eucharist (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion) is the place where Our Lord Jesus is truly present (*real presence*). All baptized people, who believe in Christ and share our beliefs concerning this sacrament, are invited and encouraged to participate in the Eucharist. This includes members of other Lutheran churches and members of other denominations. Young children are also invited to share in this celebration and may receive the sacrament if they, with their families, feel it is appropriate. Children who do not wish to receive their First Communion are invited to receive a blessing. Those unable to partake of the wine be assured that the Church affirms our Lord's presence in the bread alone.



ALL WORSHIP GUESTS — We hope that you worship with us again. If you have any questions about First Lutheran Church, please call the office at 956.383.2647.

Mission Statement: Grace in Action, Mindful of a Changing World, We Seek ALL People.

Please remember to
TURN OFF OR SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES
We appreciate your help in minimizing any distractions during the liturgy.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

STAND THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ELW 385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

Greek for 'LORD have mercy', 'Kyrie eleison' is a very old, even pre-Christian expression, used in the liturgies of the church as a penitential cry to God for mercy and forgiveness.

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

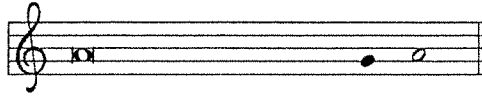
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

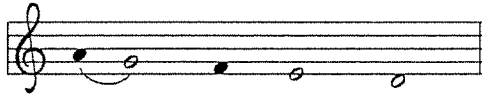
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

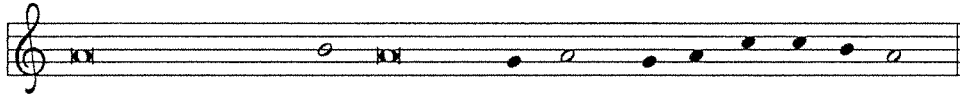
KYRIE



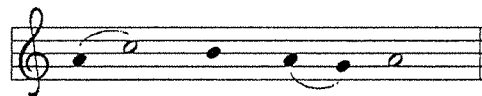
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



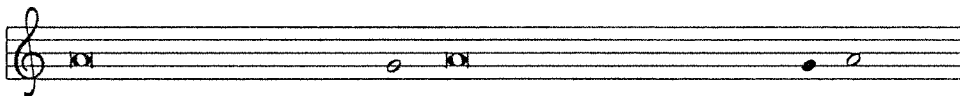
Lord, have mer - cy.



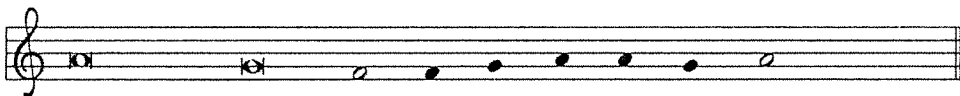
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



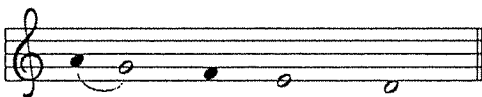
Lord, have mer - cy.



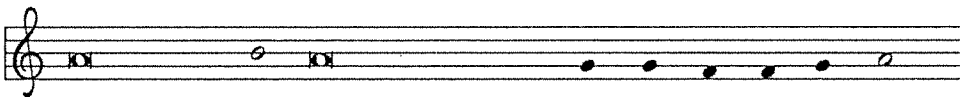
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



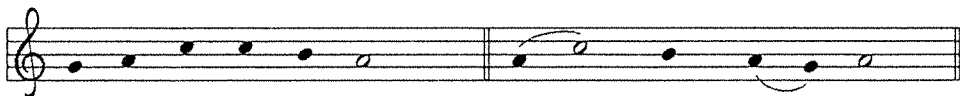
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



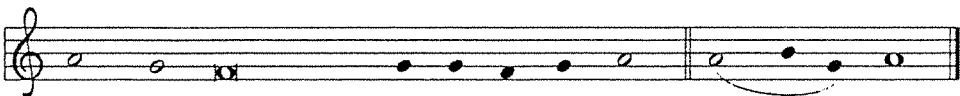
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



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

Refrain



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

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

SIT **CHOIR ANTHEM** *Welcome, Happy Morning!* Gordon Young

+ LITURGY OF THE WORD +

FIRST READING - Acts 7:55-60

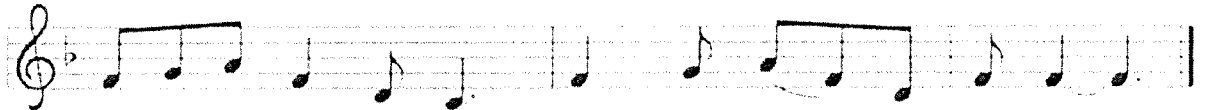
Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

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

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ¹ and my
stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength. R

⁵ Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, ¹ God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love." **R**

SECOND READING - 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

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.

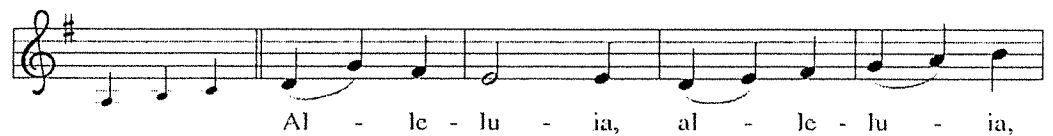
⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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.

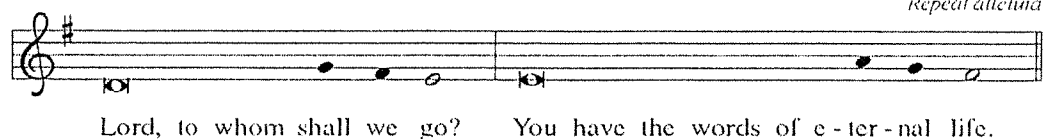
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

STAND GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING - John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SIT **REFLECTION**

STAND **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 558 Lord God, We Praise You**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Brief Silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (especially). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

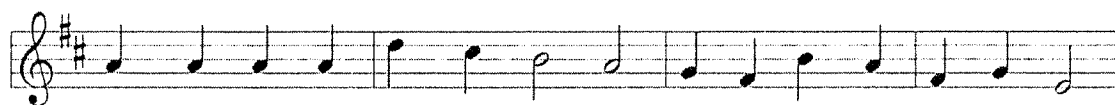
And also with you.

+ THANKSGIVING +

SIT OFFERING

STAND OFFERTORY *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

ELW 865



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray...

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

By water and the Holy Spirit we are children of God and thus we have the courage to pray...

**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,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

FRACTION

+ SENDING +

SIT **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

STAND **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 376 *Thine is the Glory*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE