



# *First Evangelical Lutheran Church*

A Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship and Communion 10:00am

*We welcome all people into  
grace through faith as we  
belong, behave and believe in  
Jesus Christ.*



**Welcome! Your presence at worship is a gift. Take a moment to introduce yourself to someone near you. If you are a visitor to First Lutheran, we invite you to fill out the tear off card on the back of the service folder and place it in the offering plate.**

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday

May 9, 2021

Holy Communion 10am

## Prelude

## Gathering

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

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Pastor We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

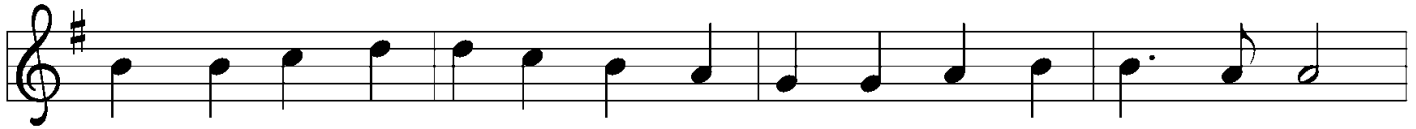
**All Amen.**

## Gathering Song

**ELW #836**

***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee***

## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## 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.**

## Canticle of Praise



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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



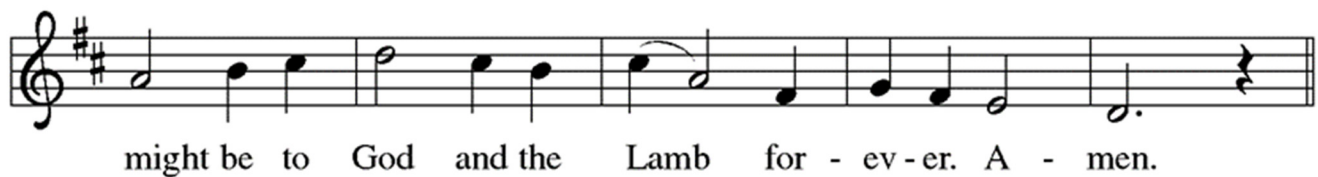
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



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



## Prayer of the Day

Pastor O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Children's Message

### Word

### First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Lector Word of God, word of life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

## Psalm 98



The Lord has re-vealed to the na-tions his sav-ing pow'r.

Cantor Sing praise to the Lord a new song, for He has done  
wondrous deeds; His right hand has on vict'ry for Him, His  
holy arm. **Antiphon**

Cantor The Lord has made His salvation known: in the sight of the nations He has revealed His justice. He has remembered His kindness and His faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

**Antiphon**

Cantor All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song; sing  
praise. **Antiphon**

## Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Lector Word of God, word of life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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



## **Gospel: John 15:9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Please be seated.***

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Richard A. Rhoades**

***Please stand as able.***

**Hymn of the Day**

**LBW#94**

***My Song Is Love Unknown  
Vs 1-4 and 7***

# My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

## **Creed**

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

**All 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 Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we  
bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and  
answer in steadfast love.

***A brief silence. Please kneel as able.***

Asst Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church.  
Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we  
pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and  
witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the  
church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. We pray for our elected officials including President Biden, Governor Abbott and Mayor Brown. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering including Ruby, Ann, Frank, those on our sustaining prayer list and those we name now.... Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. We give you thanks for the loving mothering people in our lives and ask your blessing upon them. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Merciful God, you do not expect us to live the faith alone. You have blessed us with partners for the journey. We thank you for this congregation and the fellowship we share together. And we thank you for our partners from beyond here including Bishops Eaton and Rinehart, Texas Lutheran University and all the colleges and schools of the church, and our international partners in the Central African Republic, Peru and the Maasai in Tanzania. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Asst Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

**All Your mercy is great.**

Pastor In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Passing the Peace**

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.

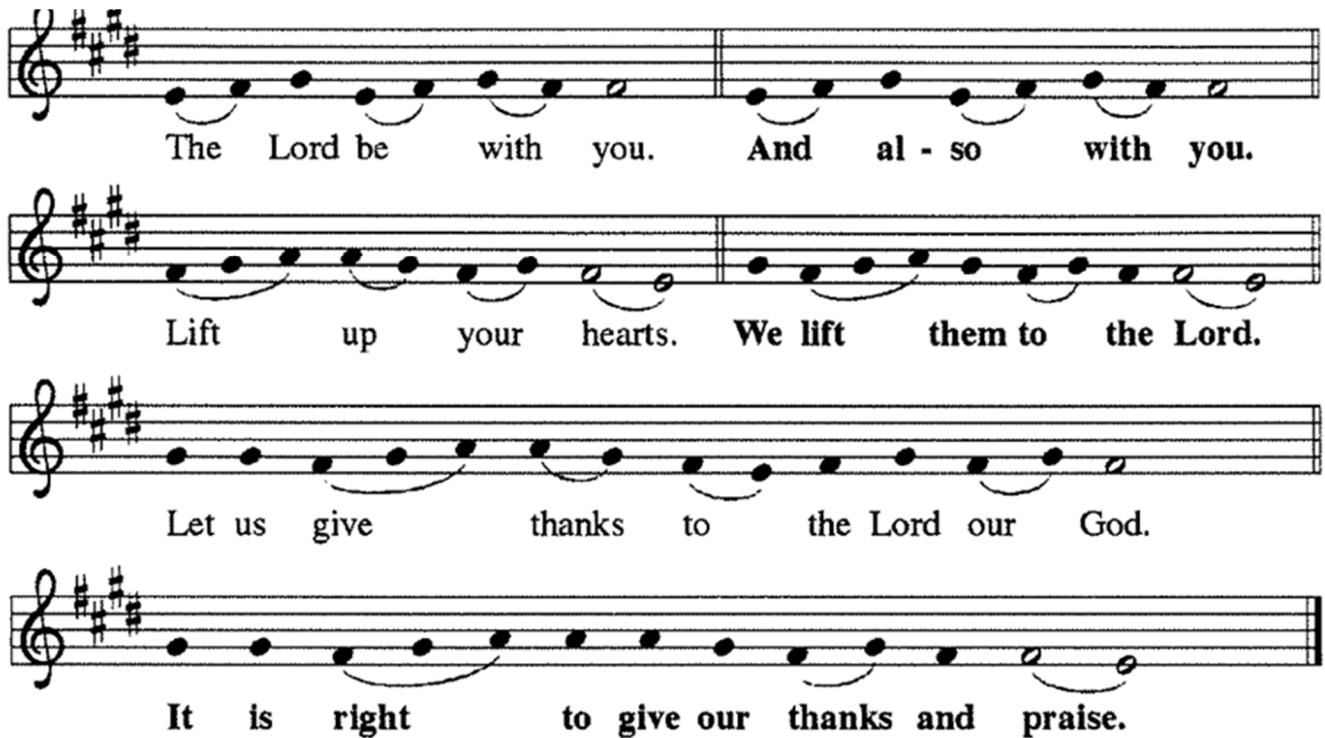
**All And also with you.**

*Please greet others with a wave to maintain social distancing.*

## **Offering Prayer**

Asst God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



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

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

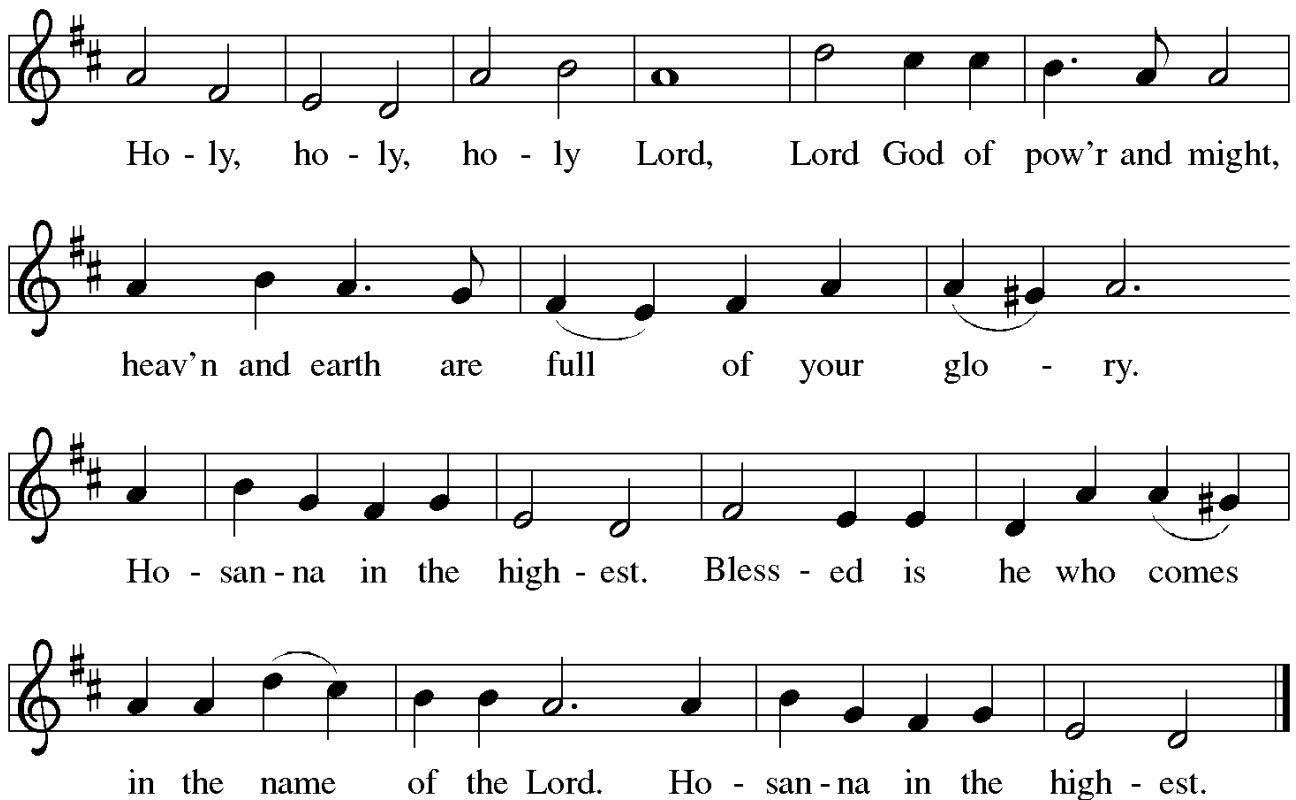
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

*Please kneel as able.*

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 The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied

***Please be seated.***

## **Distribution**

*Ushers will direct you to follow social distancing as you 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 find stationary offering plates in which to place your offering. As you come forward, keep your face mask on. Observe social distancing. Extend your hand toward the celebrant who will place a wafer of bread on your open palm. You may respond with the affirmation, "Amen." Step to the side, lift your mask to eat the wafer and then replace your mask. Step to the communion tray station where an assistant guide you to pick up your own prefilled cup of wine. You may again offer the affirmation, "Amen." Then step to the side, lift your mask to drink the wine, lower your mask, place the used cup in a receptacle and then return to your pew by the side aisle.*

## **Communion Song**

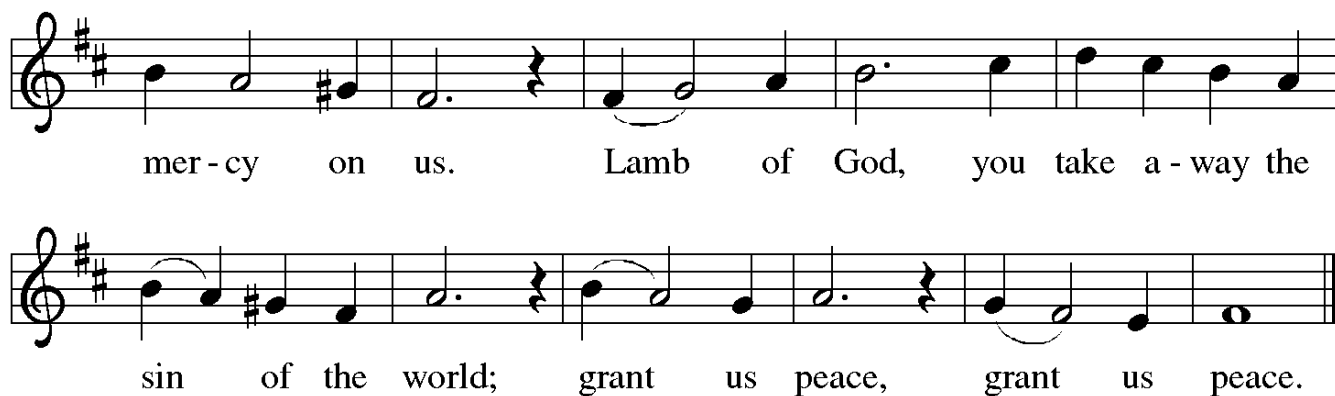


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





## Reception of Holy Communion

*Music during the reception of Holy Communion*

***Please stand as able.***

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

## Prayer

Asst Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

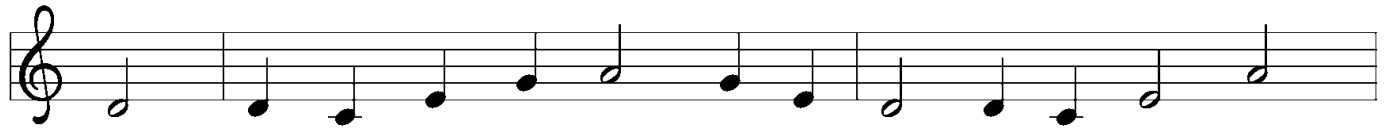
## Sending

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

## Blessing

Pastor May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

***What Wondrous Love Is This***

**Dismissal**

Asst Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Asst Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

---

*Just love everyone. God will sort'em out later.*

- The Evangelism Team

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all mothers by Brandi Painter.

**Coming soon** - the new updated Online Giving page!

**Serving at Worship Today**

Crucifer	Roy Essex
Acolytes	Evelyn Gault, Bryson Peña
Lay Minister	Kay Tucker
Lector	Lyn Gallo
Altar Guild	Donna Agrella, Bethany Grizzaffi Anna Gerald, Brenda Concienne
Cantor	Mary Lee Guthier
Ushers	JP Massa, Weldon Smith

**Prayer Concerns:** Frank Macaluso, Anne Murphy, Ruby Wulf

**Christian sympathy** to Mike Geml and his family on the death of his aunt Claire Sobson on May 1st.

**Sustaining Prayers:** Jeanie Doreck, Pat Henderson, Gene Nelson, John Doreck, Lee King, Susan Schultz, Darrell Brooks, Christina Muehe, Nicole Cheramie, Earl Gilmore, Ann Reiser, Barbara Austin, Kristi Martorell, Helga Garcia, Dana Connor, Donnie Nelson, Carl Davis, Jim Gainer, Geordge Badger

### **This Week at First Lutheran**

Sunday - Holy Communion, 10:00am

Sunday - Divine Drama, 4:00pm

Monday - Church Council, 5:00pm

Tuesday - Lyceum Board, 4:00pm

Tuesday - Bible Study, 6:30pm online

Thursday - College Devotion, 7:00pm

Saturday - Little Steps, 11:00am

Saturday - Bach Society, 3:30pm

**Magazines Needed** - UTMB is now accepting magazines again. Instead of throwing old magazines away consider donating them. The bin will be back in the Narthex to collect them in. Jack Danner will take them and distribute them where they are needed.

**Are you a Thrivent member?** If so, are you aware that twice a year you can apply for \$250 Action Team grants through Thrivent? These are used to help with events or donations sponsored by First Lutheran Church? Instead of losing the \$500 per year, you can be participating in Thrivent's generosity program to help communities and causes. Will you be a good steward of God's gift? If you have any questions, you can call: Donna Spencer at (713) 816-3338 or Brenda Concienne at (408) 370-6119.  
Thank you from the Mission Team.

**Property Team** is looking for several folks to join our team. We as a team maintain the Church and Parish House property, when things break we are the ones called on to repair. The latest project is waterproofing the limestone on the exterior of the Church which is going to take several weekends or late evenings to complete. This team has a big project coming up in the near future, once the Sanctuary team makes decisions on the path forward for the interior of the Church. We will acquire the bids, present them and once approved will follow through with the contractors to make sure the contract is fulfilled. It is time to give Dennis Broughton and Paul Martin a break from chasing leaks, meeting with contractors, pulling wire, climbing ladders, and whatever else they have done over the last several years. If you like challenges, you do not need to have skills, just the need to help out. Please consider joining the property team. If you are interested talk to Paul, Dennis or I. I am the one tooling around on the knee scooter since I obviously do not have skills to calculate the amount of bolts it takes to hold up an attic stairway. Jim Gainer(409) 771-0712

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387**

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

**Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416**

**Saturday, May 8, 2021**

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

**Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)****Saturday, May 8, 2021**

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

**Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760****Sunday, May 9, 2021**

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

**Matthias, Apostle****Friday, May 14, 2021**

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

## Prayer and Care

How can we pray for you?

Email: [flcg@firstlutherangalveston.com](mailto:flcg@firstlutherangalveston.com)

Web site: [firstlutherangalveston.com](http://firstlutherangalveston.com)

Church Office Hours, Monday – Friday

9:00am to 12:00pm, 12:30pm to 3:30pm

The People of First Lutheran, Ministers

The Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Pastor

Emily Billin, Minister of Missional Community

Brandi Painter, Parish Administrator

Don F. Hermanson, Director of Music/Organist

Kelsey Scheuerman, Director of Joyful Noise

June Pulliam, Executive Director, LMA

Cynthia McEldowney, Director, The Lyceum

Derrill Mallett, Rising Tide New Media, Webmaster

Please tell us about your experience today.  
We value your thoughts.

## Connect

I'm Here on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Received Communion \_\_\_\_\_

## What would you like us to know?

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm Visiting                      \_\_\_\_\_ I'm a member

☐ Please add me to the mailing list

       I want to Join First Lutheran

## How did you find us?

           I was invited!

\_\_\_\_\_ Google                      \_\_\_\_\_ Social Media

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

## What describes you best?

\_\_\_\_\_ Student (school) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Single                      \_\_\_\_\_ Single Parent

\_\_\_\_\_ Widowed                      \_\_\_\_\_ Engaged

\_\_\_\_\_ Married (spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

## How can we connect with you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthday:** \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Grades: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Please place in the offering plate.**

## Sermon Notes

[illegible]

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
2415 Avenue G  
Galveston, TX 77550  
409-762-8477