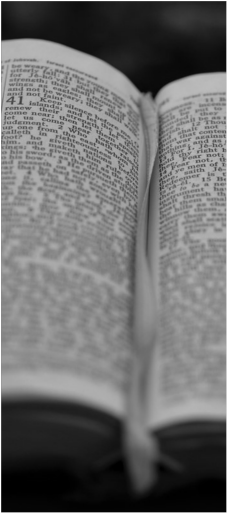


First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Outdoor Worship | July 9, 2023
Sunday 9:30 am



Welcome to First Evangelical Lutheran Church

We welcome all who worship here today, especially those who have joined us as guests.

We invite you to discover God's presence with us through this ancient rhythm of worship as we gather together, hearing the word, sharing the feast, and are sent in blessing.

A note on Ordinary Time

+ + +

This week we begin the longest season of the church year. Our liturgical color turns to green. This season is often been called "the LONG green season," and it is. But a few years ago I heard it called "the green, growing season." We, here in Nebraska, can certainly appreciate a green, growing season.

May you have a blessed and growth-filled green, growing season!

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

gathering

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

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

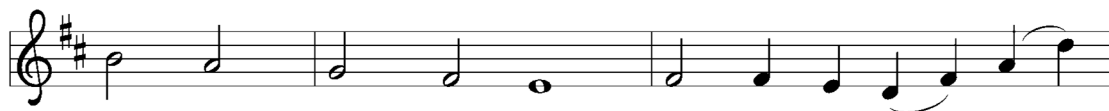
Amen.

Gathering Song

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

word

The assembly is seated.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

The reading concludes:

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

Responsive Reading Psalm 145:8-14

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your



dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

The reading concludes:

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The assembly stands to receive the Word of God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes:

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

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly
stands to
proclaim the
Word of God in
song.

Hymn of the Day

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers begin:

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words:

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

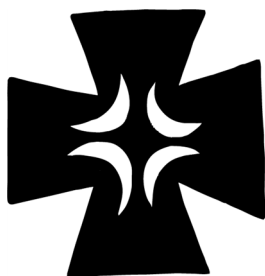
Peace

Greetings and signs of peace are shared by those gathered to reconcile ourselves to one another before sharing in the Lord's Supper.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.



meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward, while the assembly sings:

Offertory Song

We Come Now to Your Table



Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop
Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013
Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

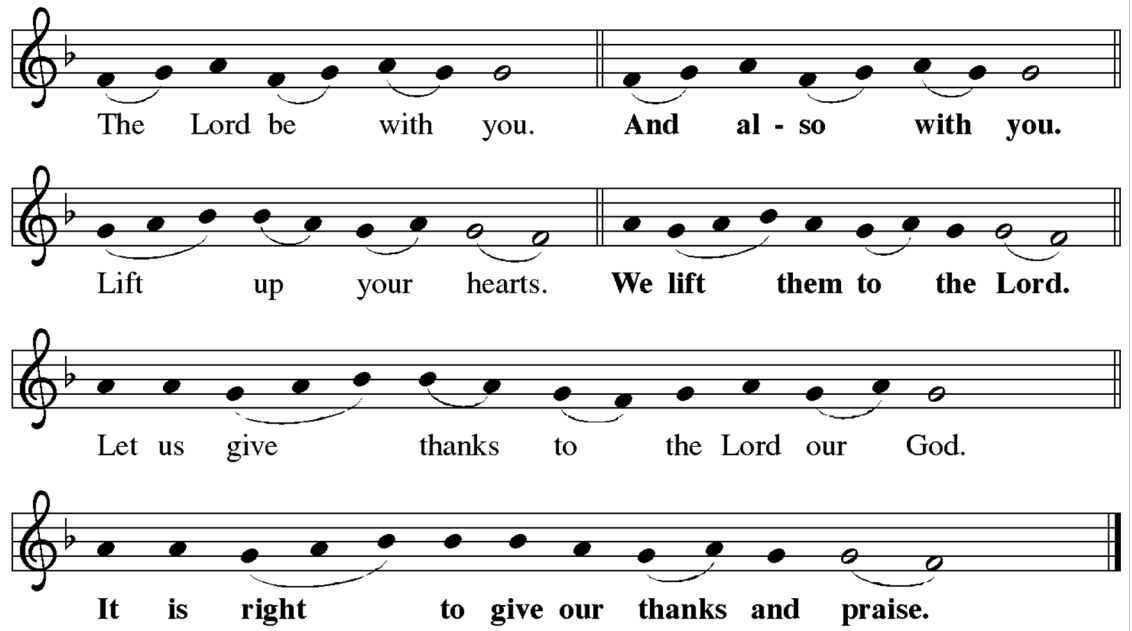
People may greet one another with words of Christ's peace, such as, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated after the peace is shared.

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set and the pianist may offer a song.

After the offering is gathered, **the assembly stands** for the singing of the offertory hymn.

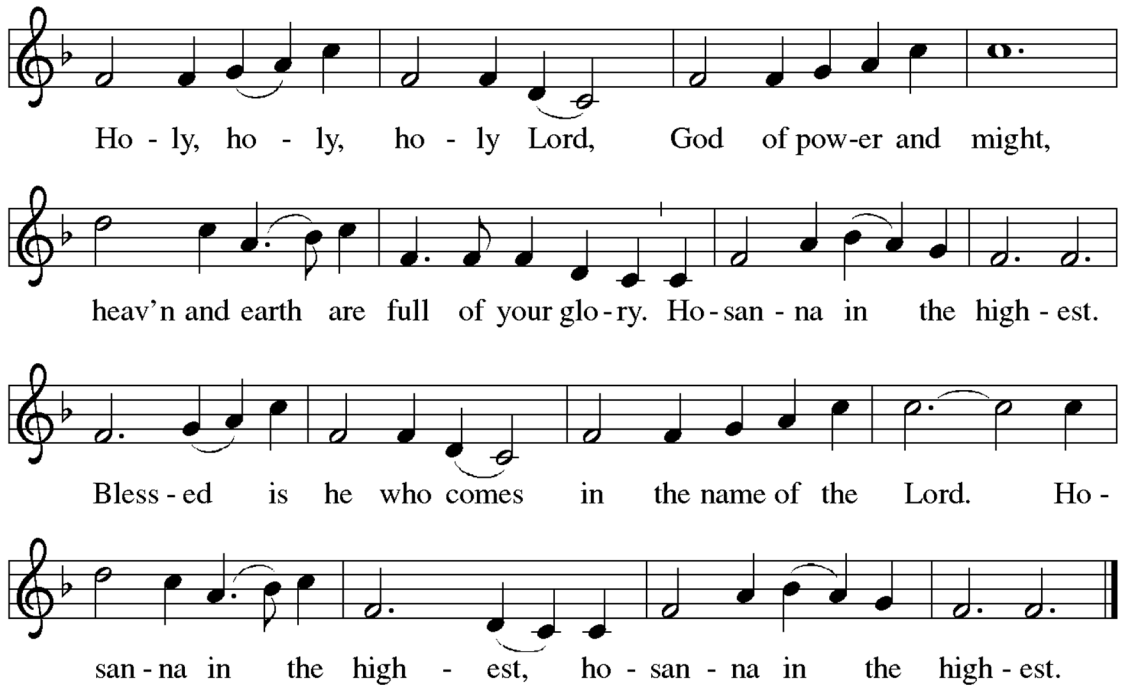
Great Thanksgiving



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.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, ...
...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Invitation to Communion

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in peace.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sending

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

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

Sending Song

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

*We are sent into
the world to do
God's work and
care for God's
people.*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

July Worship Assistants

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Rob	Pastor Rob	Pastor Rob	Pastor Rob	Pastor Rob
Assisting Ministers for Communion	Sharlene	Bondel	Beth	Ron	Gina
Reader	Bondel	Bondel	Sharon	Bondel	Jayne
Ushers	Bondel			Bondel Tim Norquest	
Greeters		Bondel			
Musician	Jolene	Jolene	Jolene	Jolene	Jolene
Acolytes					
Technology	Sharlene	Sharlene	Liesal	Hannah	Hannah
Altar Guild				Holly Norquest	
Fellowship			Sharon		

An ordinary week at First Lutheran:

Sundays:	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesdays:	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open
Thursdays:	9-11 am	Quilting
	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open
	7:30-8:30pm	Bible Study
Fridays:	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open

All are welcome!

Upcoming Events



Register online for VBS at www.firstlutheranyork.org.

If you have questions, or would like to help out, contact the church office.

Please take this bulletin home with you or recycle it on your way out. Thank you!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.