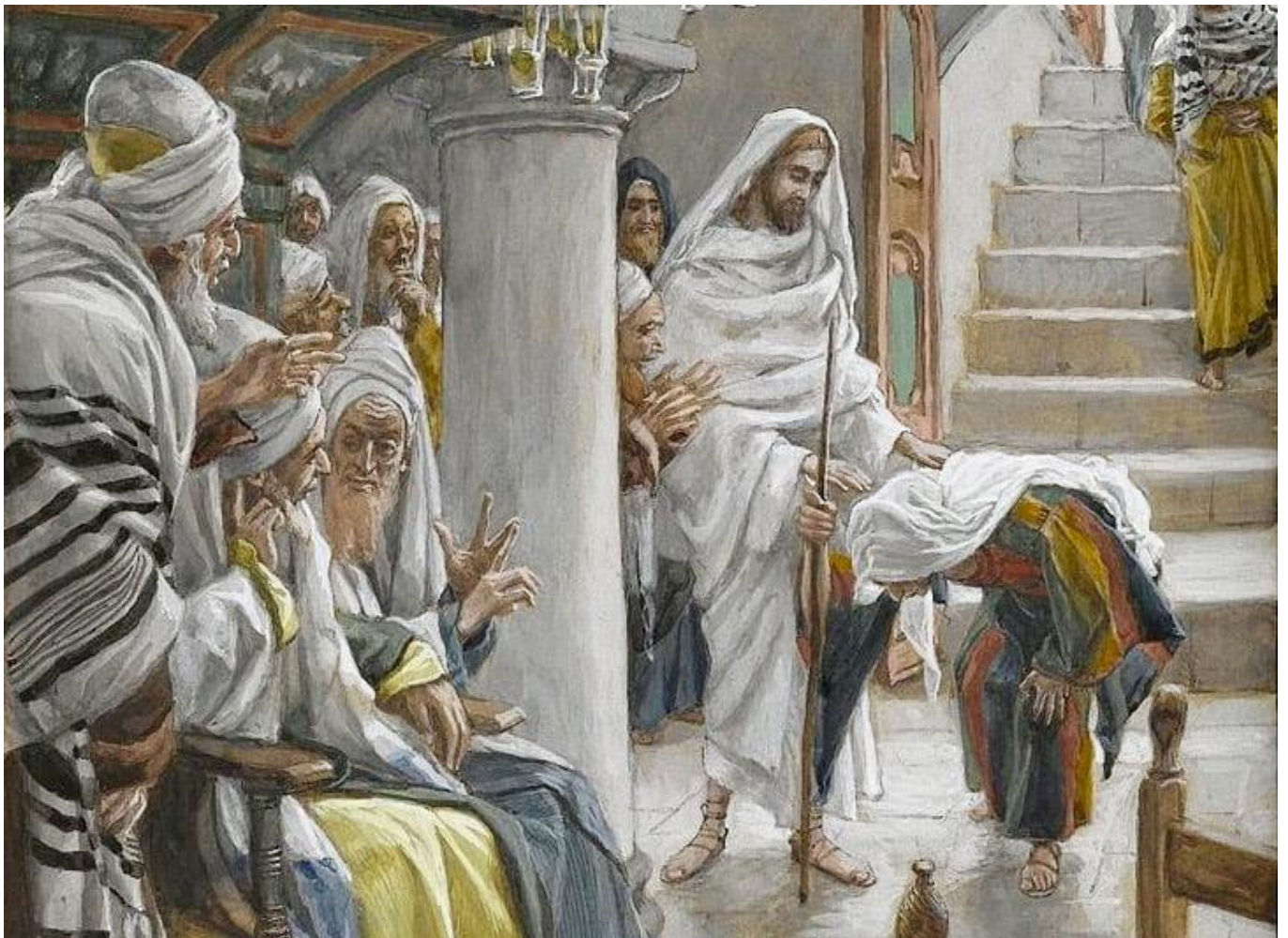


First Lutheran
relationships that transform



11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

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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11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 24, 2025 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

A Shield About Me

The Chancel Choir

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
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.**

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con-fess that whole-ness is our deep-est need.
our com - mon life de-clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

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

Assistant:

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:

Lord, have mer - cy.

3rd time to Coda ⊕

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

Assistant:

For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the
For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray pray to the
praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O

cy.

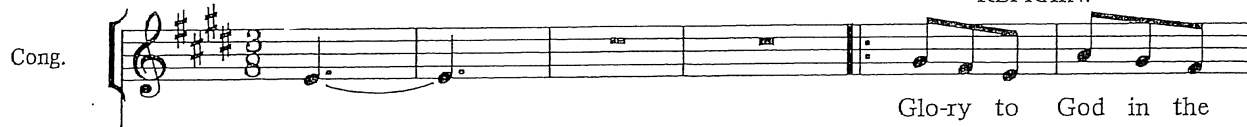
** Ending for Kyrie*

God.

A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

GLORY TO GOD

Cong. 

REFRAIN:
Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. _____

VERSE 1:

(Refrain begins)

You are God; _____ we praise you. You are Lord; _____ we ac - claim you.

You are God e - ter-nal; all cre - a-tion wor-ships you. _____

VERSE 2:

(Refrain begins)

All the an - gels in the heav-ens chant your praise in end - less song: _____

_____ Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, _____ God of pow-er and might. _____

VERSE 3:

(Refrain begins)

The a - pos - tles _____ all praise you. All the pro - phets _____ ac - claim you.

All the mar-tyrs and your faith-ful peo - ple wor-ship you. _____

VERSE 4:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless our lector who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b – 14

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18 – 29

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

Please stand.

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.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10 – 17

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Set Free!

Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 617

We Come to You for Healing, Lord



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

APOSTLE'S CREED

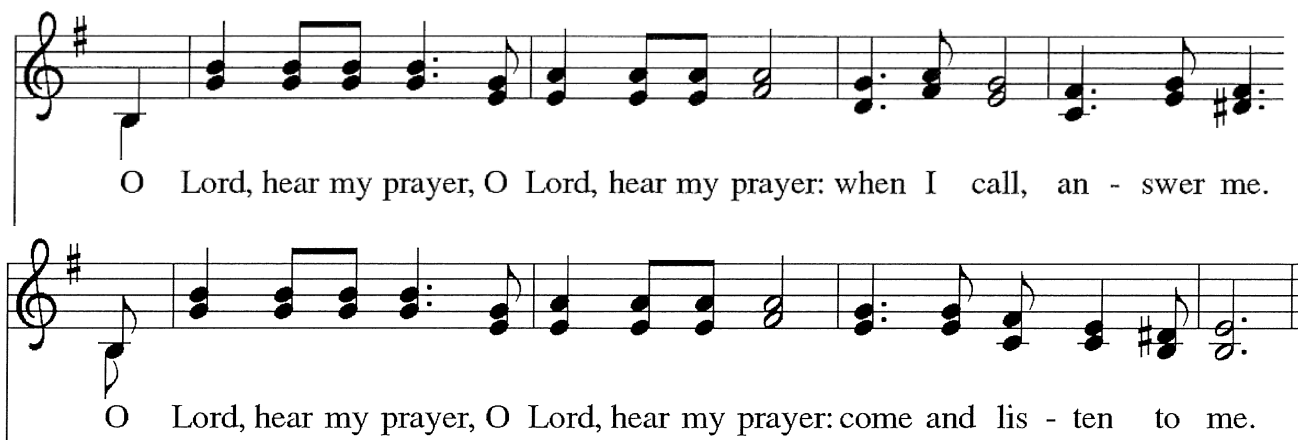
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

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.

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer



The image shows two staves of musical notation for a hymn. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single line, with lyrics underneath. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The melody is written on a single line, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics for both staves are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me." and "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me." The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

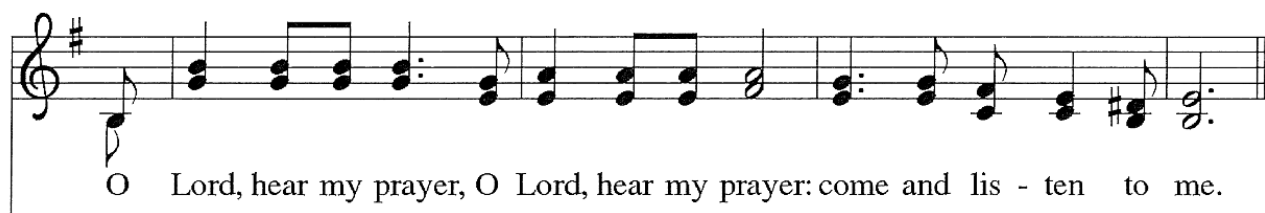
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Congregational response:



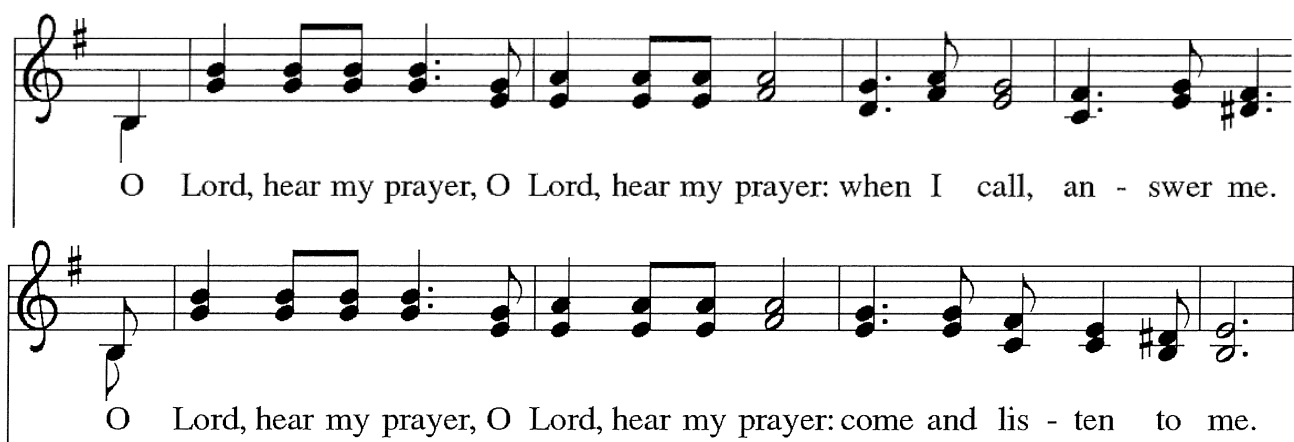
Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

HYMN (As prayers conclude)

ELW

571

O Lord, Hear My Prayer



Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

Please stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

ELW 693

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb Of God

Tod Sechrist

Women *Men* *All*

Je - su, Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, have

Women *Men* *All*

mer - cy on - - - us. Je - su, Bread of Life, You take a - way the

Women *Men* *All*

sins of the world, have mer - cy on - - - us. Je - sus, Prince of Peace, You

take a - way the sins of the world, Grant us You - - r peace.

268

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

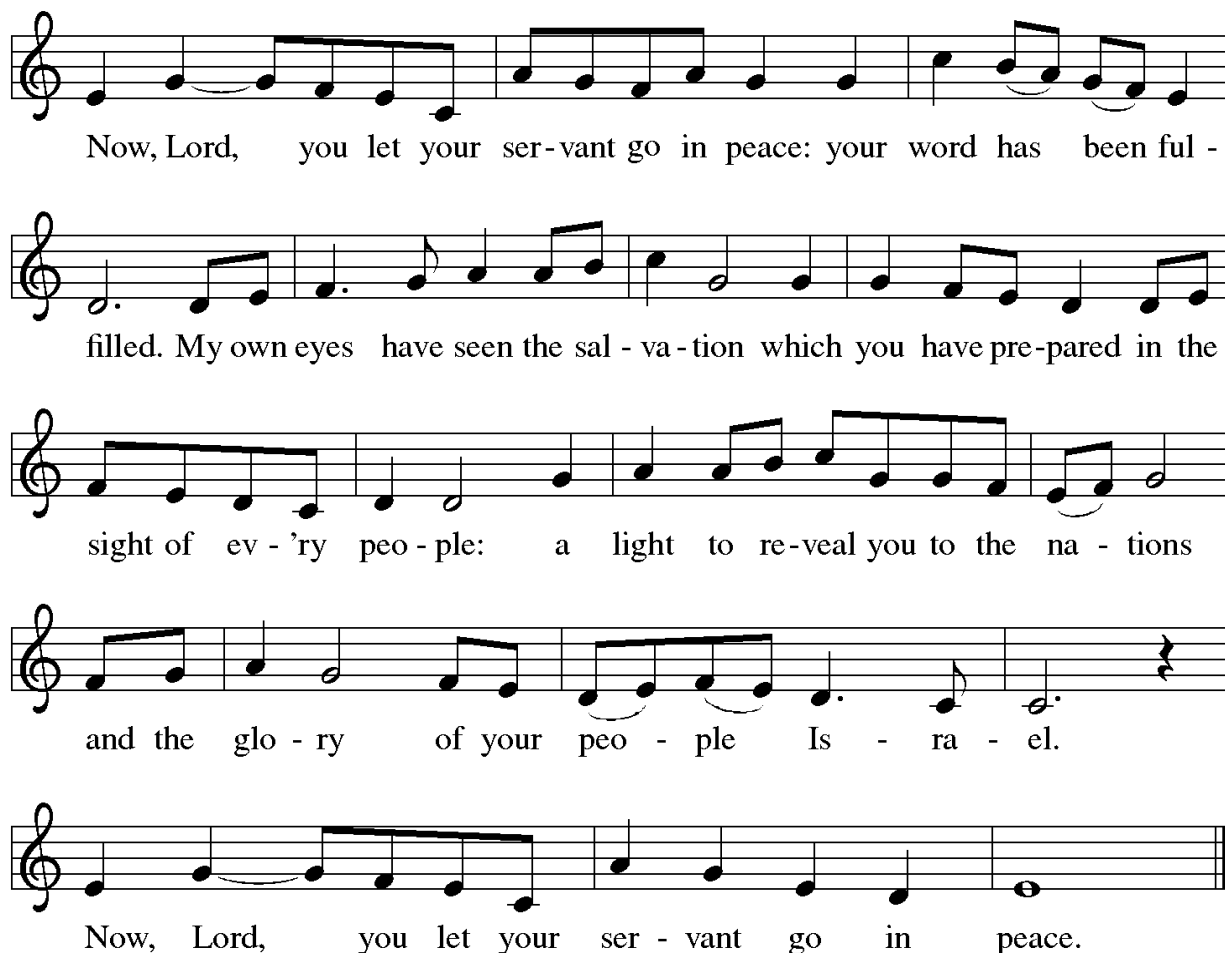
Optional repeat D G/A A Last time D

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 God,
you gathered us to your table
and we received your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
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.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 886

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

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

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Monday, August 25	Tuesday, August 26	Wednesday, August 27
9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Meals with Love	11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Stew Pot 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	10:00 am Quilters 5:00 – 6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring plus 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group
Thursday, August 28	Friday, August 29	Saturday, August 30
4:30 pm Fitness Class		
Sunday, August 31	Volunteer Schedule August 24	Volunteer Schedule August 31
8:15 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir warm-up 10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church.	Lector: 8:15 am: Ed Bero 10:45 am: Bev Bell Communion: Set up: Ed Bero Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins Offering Counters: Rachel Grundmann & Bill Anderson	Lector: 8:15 am: Danny Chandler 10:45 am: Belinda Walenta Communion: Set up: Gloria Bero Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins Offering Counters: Kyle Lybarger Teresa DeShazer
<p style="text-align: center;">Readings for in preparation for Sunday, August 31: Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.</p>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS



HELP NEEDED FOR THE 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. We are currently serving supper to 13 adults and 8 children. (These numbers change as registrations come in.) We need volunteers to help cook. 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 [bloodhoundlovers@aol.com].

NTNL SWO Convention

October 10-11 2025

Calvary Lutheran Church
7620 Baker Blvd
Richland Hills, TX 76118



**Early Bird
Registration—\$35
Registration—\$40
One Day—\$30**



Join our keynote speaker, Patti Reed, as she shares about "Smart Conversations Across Generations."

Friday
Registration 12:00
Business Meeting 1:00
Dinner 6:00
Worship 7:00
Entertainment 8:00

Saturday
Registration 7:30
8:30-4:00
Keynote Speaker—Patti Reed

Registration forms and Scholarship forms
are in the narthex.



Kirk Barrett will be sharing a presentation on Legacy Giving and Stewardship September 14 at 9:30 am

FINANCIAL REPORT

Church Cash Flow Year to Date as of:

08/18/2025

Regular Church Offering: 2025	
Contributions:	\$ 313,965
Expenditures:	\$ 283,243
Difference:	\$ 30,722

Building Maintenance Fund Activity: 2025	
Contributions:	\$ 57,973
Expenditures:	\$ 9,200
Difference:	\$ 48,773

Respectfully,
Karen Smith

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

FLC Members

David Smith is having a reoccurrence of B Cell Lymphoma.

Holland Caraway is having cancer treatments.

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

Dewayne Jenkins, Stewart Jenkins' dad, is hospitalized.

James, Beverly Bell's 15-year-old grandson has severe Crohn's Disease and is having some serious complications.

Ken Fabre Sr, friend of Kathleen Bullock, is terminally ill. Pray for his family.

Kathy, Belinda Walenta's sister, is having health problems.

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 – Army, Ft. Huachuca, Az

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 24, 2025

Break the Rules

Have you ever encountered a rule or regulation that just didn't make any sense to you? What did you do? Did you follow the rule, or did you break it? And if you broke it, did you tell anyone that you did? Or did you quietly chafe against the norm?

In the reading from Luke for today, we find Jesus preaching in the temple on the day of rest and, seemingly on a whim, deciding to break the rules in front of everyone. The outrage of some people in the crowd might have come honestly, of course. Practicing their faith was a serious matter, and for many that meant carefully following the rules.

For many people today in our own communities of faith, following the rules is still a serious matter. But what if the rules prevent God's love from being shared or prevent grace from being shown? What if the rules effectively exclude rather than include?

God's loving grace is wild and free, overcoming obstacles and breaking through boundaries. Death cannot stop God's resurrecting love. Locked doors cannot stop the risen Christ. And today we see that not even religious rules can or should limit God's freeing grace.

Our gospel reading for today doesn't invite us to break the rules per se, but it does invite us to look at the rules, especially those related to our faith, and to think critically about them. How do the ways we organize ourselves and our communities extend God's grace and love, and in what ways might they prevent God's love from being shown and shared?

The God seen in Jesus intends to free humanity from the things that bind us. We see that clearly in Christ, who not only preaches God's grace but publicly reaches out with that same grace to heal and help and love. Even if it means breaking some rules.

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: Ed Bero

10:45 am: Bev Bell

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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Kyle Lybarger (*President*)

Beverly Bell (*Vice-President*)

Rachel Grundmann (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Peri Topel (*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.