

**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 6, 2008**

**A cordial welcome** to all who are visiting with us today! Please sign a Visitor Card from the pew rack or the Guest Book near the entrance. Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments on the front lawn or in the narthex.

**A Nursery** for children under six is available each Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

**Lutheran worship** calls for more standing than in many non-Lutheran churches. Persons unable to stand during the service may remain seated. Also, persons who have difficulty walking may sit in the very front pew and receive communion there.

**Holy Communion** in our congregation is open to all baptized Christians. Lutherans believe and teach that in this sacrament Jesus Christ is truly present to heal our brokenness and empower our lives. After the worship leaders have communed, congregants come forward in two lines in the center aisle. They obtain an empty glass or, if preferred, a glass of white grape juice from an usher at the front of the aisle, and then stand around the carpet. Communicants consume the bread and wine right after receiving them, and wait for the blessing. After the blessing, the communicants in front lead the lines to the side aisles, where communion glasses are placed in the baskets provided, and all return to their seats.

**Sunday Church School** for all ages is available from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The Adult Class meets in the parish hall. Next Sunday Pastor Peterman will begin a course entitled "Four Portraits of Easter."

**The Chancel** Flowers are provided today to the Glory of God by Ted and Gretchen Barker.

**Calendar**

<b>Today</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Property Committee meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Service and Care Committee meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Society for Early Music of the Church Board meeting
<b>Monday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Choir Scholars rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Church Choir rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Congregation Council
	2:00 p.m.	Schütz Choir rehearsal

## The Order of Service

### **The Prelude**

### **Now We Join in Celebration**

*(Schmucke dich)*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### **The Ringing of the Tower Bell**

*Stand*

### **The Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✝), and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. 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 sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **The Entrance Hymn ELW 510**

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

### **The Apostolic Greeting**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **The Kyrie LBW pages 78-79**

**The Hymn of Praise      This is the Feast, LBW pp.81-82**

**The Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Sit*

**The First Lesson**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

<sup>14a</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, <sup>36</sup>Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**The Psalmody (read responsively)**

**Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O Lord,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O Lord, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

### **The Second Lesson**

**1 Peter 1:17-23**

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

**The Verse (Choir Scholar)**

*Then Was the Lord Jesus Known*  
Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day  
Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

### **The Gospel**

**Luke 24:13-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

<sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**The Sermon**

**Christ Interprets Scripture, Not the Other Way Around**

*Stand*

**The Hymn of the Day ELW 462**

*Now We Join in Celebration*

**The 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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**

### **The Prayer of the Church**

*The prayer concludes:*

**P:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **The Peace**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**R: Peace be with you.**

*Sit*

### **The Offering**

#### **The Anthem**

*Jesus, Grant Me This, I Pray*

Text: Samuel Longfellow (1819 - 1892)

Tune: Orlando Gibbons (1585 - 1625)

Setting: S. Drummond Wolff (1916 - 2004)

*Stand*

**The Offertory**

**ELW hymn 884**

## The Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

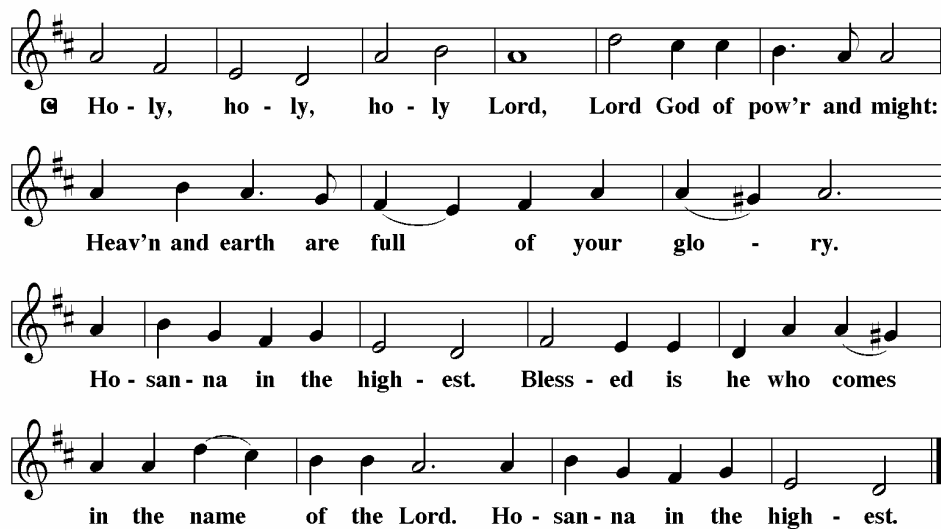
Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Versicles - page 88, rubric 28, LBW

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## The Sanctus



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.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

## The Words of Institution

P: 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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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**

### **The Agnus Dei      LBW hymn 103**

*Sit*

### **The Communion**

*Communicants consume the elements right after receiving them, remain in place for the blessing, and then return to their seats.*

#### **The Anthem (Solo)**

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth  
(from Messiah)*

George Frederick Handel (1685 - 1759)

### **The Communion Blessing** (After each table of communicants)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

*Stand*

### **The Canticle      LBW, pages 92-93**

#### **The Prayer**

A: Let us pray:

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

#### **The Benediction**

**Benediction - page 94 of LBW**

### **The Recessional Hymn ELW 542**

*O Living Bread from Heaven*

#### **The Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**

*Fuque from Sonata VI*  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 47)

**WORSHIP ENABLERS**

Rayfus Ferdinand.....	Bell Ringer
Meredith Nelson.....	Usher
Victor Houston.....	Usher
Clete Bayer.....	Usher
Dean Huffman.....	Usher
Jeffrey Hokanson.....	Verger
Fran Allen, Gertie Beutel.....	Altar Guild
Dorry Shaddock.....	Organist
Carroll Shaddock.....	Choir Director
Jake Bayer.....	Crucifer
Caroline Lucke.....	Acolyte
Peter Hokanson.....	Server
Mary Ambrose.....	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....	Presiding Minister

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**CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....	Pastor
Marty Ambrose.....	Director of Public Relations
Charline R. Thompson.....	Office Manager/Secretary
Allison Silk.....	Nursery Attendant
Rayfus Ferdinand.....	Custodian
Dorry Shaddock.....	Interim Organist
Carroll Shaddock.....	Director of Worship and Music

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**First Evangelical Lutheran Church** was founded in 1851, and played a vital role in the formation of Lutheranism in Texas. The church building is located at Holman and Caroline, across the street from Houston Community College, convenient to the Ensemble/HCC Metro-rail stop in the 3400 block of Main Street.



Houston's Historic  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1311 Holman Avenue  
Houston, Texas 77004  
713.529-3589 Office  
713.529-0816 Fax  
[office@felchouston.org](mailto:office@felchouston.org)  
[www.felchouston.org](http://www.felchouston.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.