

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 13, 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. Pastor Peterman is currently teaching a course entitled "Four Portraits of Easter."

The Inaugural Schütz Vespers, originally scheduled for next Sunday, April 20th, has been postponed until autumn.

Calendar

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Congregation Council meeting
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting
	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
Tuesday		Deadline, <i>First Edition</i>
Friday	7:30 p.m.	Julius Knigge Class, at Marjorie Ranft's home
Saturday	11:00 p.m.	Altar Guild meeting
Next Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Church Choir rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Educational and Fellowship Committee meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Evangelism and Publicity Committee meeting

The Order of Service

The Prelude

Prelude in A Major
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

The Introit

Make a Joyful Noise unto God
Text: Ancient Source
Setting: Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)

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 389

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

The Second Lesson**1 Peter 2:19-25**

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God*Stand***The Verse (Choir Scholar)**

The Lord Hath Sent Redemption
Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day
Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel**John 10:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.*Sit***The Sermon****Faith that Neither Compromises nor Condemns***Stand*

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

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Plainsong text and melody: *Victimae Paschali* (Hymn 371)

Chorale text and melody: *Christ Is Arisen*, c. 1100 (Hymn 372)

Setting: Based on Hans Leo Hassler, 1608

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)

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Text: Psalm 23

Music: Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

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 LBW

The Recessional Hymn ELW 789

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

The Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

PiIice d'Orgue, BWV 572

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

WORSHIP ENABLERS

- Rayfus Ferdinand.....Bell Ringer
- Paul Orton.....Usher
- Kelly Rinnan.....Usher
- Greg Ranft.....Usher
- Victor Houston.....Usher
- Frances Allen.....Verger
- Carolyn Hokanson, Tracy Walton.....Altar Guild
- Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
- Carroll Shaddock.....Choir Director
- Nick Bayer.....Crucifer
- Curtis Allen.....Acolyte
- Jeffrey Hokanson.....Server

George Soutter.....Assisting Minister
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Presiding Minister

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Pastor
Millie Thibodeaux.....Parish Administrator
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.



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