

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. In the adult class Pastor Peterman is currently teaching a course on The Lord's Prayer. The class meets in the Parish hall.

Communicants are asked to complete a communion card and place it in the offertory.

Pastor Peterman will return from vacation on July 16.

The Chancel Flowers are given today by Marjorie Ranft and the Family of Allen Ranft to the Glory of God and in Memory of Allen Ranft's birthday.

Calendar

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Congregation Council meeting
	6:15 p.m.	<i>Selah</i> Bible Study
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting
	7:30 p.m.	Executive committee meeting
Tuesday		Deadline for August <i>First</i> Edition
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Altar Guild meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Education and Enrichment Committee meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Evangelism and Publicity Committee meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Lutheran Day at the Astros
	6:15 p.m.	<i>Selah</i> Bible Study

The Order of Service

The Prelude (Meredith Nelson)

“Meditation”
By Paul Creston (1906 - 1985)

The Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

The Introit (Cantor)

We have thought of The loving kindness, O God
Text: Traditional Introit for the Day
Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914 - 98)

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 533
Wise

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

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 **LBW, pages 81-82**

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 65: 1-13

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God
is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with
grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Stand

The Verse (Cantor)

Be Thou my strong Rock
Text: Traditional Introit for the Day
Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

The Sermon

Stand

The Hymn of the Day ELW 508

As Rain from the clouds

The Apostolic Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

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

Stand

The Offertory ELW hymn 884

The Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

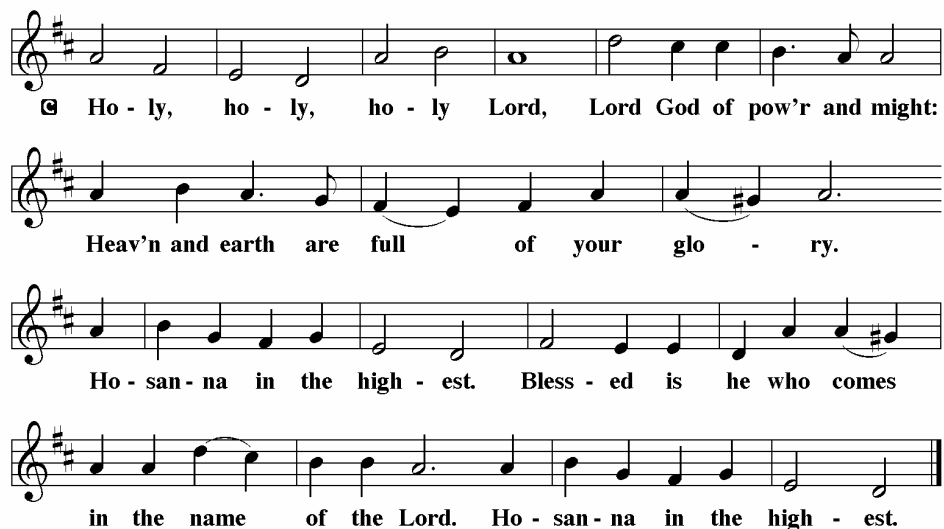
Merciful Father,

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

The versicles, LBW, p. 88, rubric 28

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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 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 **The Benediction, LBW, p.94**

The Recessional Hymn ELW 547

Sent Forth by God's Blessings

The Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

WORSHIP ENABLERS

Meredith Nelson.....	Bell Ringer
Kelly Rinnan.....	Usher
Dean Huffman.....	Usher
Greg Ranft.....	Usher
Joshua Gumtow.....	Usher
Tony Settles.....	Crucifer
Caroline Lucke.....	Acolyte
Jim Castro.....	Server
Jeffrey Hokanson.....	Assisting Minister
.....	Presiding Minister
Fran Allen.....	Vergers
Fran Allen, Lois Good.....	Altar Guild
Jackson Felder.....	Cantor
Cathy Hildreth.....	Organist

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....	Pastor
Millie Thibodeaux.....	Parish Administrator
Marty Ambrose.....	Director of Public Relations
Charline R. Thompson.....	Office Manager/Secretary
Tino Solis.....	Custodian

Allison Silk.....Nursery Attendant
Carroll Shaddock.....Director of Worship and Music
Dorry Shaddock.....Organist

Service music reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright © 1978
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 6133-L

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
www.felchouston.org

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

Sunday July 13, 2008