

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. Persons unable to stand during worship may remain seated.

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.

On Good Friday at noon a Service of the Word will be held in the nave. Ten minutes of organ music will begin and end the service. All are welcome to attend.

On Holy Saturday an Easter Vigil will be held at 11:00 p.m. The service begins outside with the lighting of the Paschal Candle and a solemn procession into the nave. Old Testament lessons are read, the Litany prayed, and baptismal vows renewed. At midnight the chancel is vested for Easter, and the first communion of Easter is celebrated.

An Easter Breakfast will be served on Sunday in the Parish Hall 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

On Easter the festive service celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord will be held at 11:00 a.m.

The Order of Service

The Prelude

Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) (attrib.)

The Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

Silent Procession

The Invocation and Instruction

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

C: Amen.

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death and the devil - all that keeps us from loving God and neighbor. This is the struggle to which we were committed at baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus Christ.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord. All who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love and be servants to one another as Jesus became our servant.

It is however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat of the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

The Confession and Absolution

P: Let us now make confession to God.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting.

Amen

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. 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.

Amen

All who wish to receive individual absolution through the laying on of hands may come forward at this time by way of the center aisle and return to their seats by the side aisles.

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.
Amen.

Stand

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.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-4

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel

of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**²for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

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

**¹³I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

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

**¹⁵Precious in your sight, O Lord,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

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

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

**¹⁹in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you

eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Stand

The Verse

Christ Hath Humbled Himself
Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day
Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

The Sermon

The Authority to Serve

Stand

The Hymn of the Day 502

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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**

Stand

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

Sit

The Offering

The Church Choir Anthem

Hoc Corpus (Remember Our Savior)
Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762)

Stand

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 Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: 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, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise you 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 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 Church Scholars Anthem

Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Setting: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

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 Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Psalm 22, chanted by the choir, tone 5

The stripping of the chancel by the Altar Guild symbolizes the stripping of Christ of his power and glory by his captors. The service ends without benediction or postlude, showing its continuity with the services on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, which all together form one complete service known as the Triduum. The people leave the nave in silence.

WORSHIP ENABLERS

Rayfus Ferdinand.....Bell Ringer
Paul Orton.....Usher
Greg Ranft.....Usher
Clete Bayer.....Usher
Cynthia Conrad Bayer.....Usher
Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
Carroll Shaddock.....Choir Director
Jake Bayer.....Crucifer
Curtis Allen.....Acolyte
Peter Hokanson.....Server

Jeffrey Hokanson.....Assisting Minister
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Presiding Minister

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

Maundy Thursday Worship
March 20, 2008