

ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 17, 2026

WELCOME to First Lutheran! Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter. We are also recognizing the festival of the Ascension that remembers Jesus ascension into heaven 40 days after the resurrection. Many thanks to Nicholas DeMaio for filling in for vacationing Pastor McClanahan. Nicholas is serving as a student pastor at Advent Lutheran and was able to preach at both locations this morning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues a look at the book of Leviticus and asking which of the laws in that book continue into the present age. Sunday School is held at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Education Building. There is always coffee and snacks.

175th ANNIVERSARY UPDATES: Our 175th anniversary celebration is fast approaching. See the flyers to purchase tickets for the July 4 lunch. T-shirts will be on sale very soon online (if they are not already.) Check your email for a link. Books remain available, too. In your prayers, give thanks to God for 175th of faithfulness, and pray for another 175!

CHURCH CHOIR rehearses on Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the organ gallery. New singers are always welcome!

PRAYERS: Today, we offer prayers for Mary Anne Stoner, Alex Baird, Mike Knerr, Lane Kelley, Dorothy Hicks, and Pastor Edwin Peterman.

BRAUN HALL UPDATE: The construction of the pilasters and coffered ceilings continues and plumbers and electricians are working hard. Changes to the AC system are also taking place now.

GIVING: You will find offering envelopes on the table in the narthex. If you give electronically, you may pick up a donation card there and place it in the offering plate. Or Zelle works, using office@flhouston.org or 713.529.3589.

FLOWERS: Thanks to Lauren and Mark Baird for donating flowers for the first several weeks of Easter. To arrange to sponsor flowers for later dates, contact Cheri in the church office (office@flhouston.org); the cost is \$30. Flowers may be designated in memory or in honor of a family member, or simply to the glory of God.

VISITORS: Thank you for visiting today! Feel free to email Pastor McClanahan at pastor@flhouston.org if you'd like to learn more about the church. Or just fill out a communication card and place it in the offering plate. We would love to keep in touch.

Contact Us:

713.529.3589 * pastor@flhouston.org * www.flhouston.org

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 17 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday and Thursday

9am-2pm First Friends
Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

CHURCH STAFF

Evan McClanahan, Pastor
Mario Aschauer, Organist and Choir Director
Amanda McClanahan, Director of First Friends
Cheri Santibanez, Office Administrator
Pr. Edwin Peterman, Pastor Emeritus

WORSHIP ENABLERS TODAY

Matthew Scott	Assisting Minister
Edward Scott	Server/Crucifer
Whoever Available	Acolyte
Clint Pustejovsky, Dylan Blackwell	Usher
Whoever Available (no communion)	Altar Guild
Amanda McClanahan	Audio/Video
Dorry Shaddock	Organist
Nicholas DeMaio	Liturgist/Preacher



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 17, 2026

SERVICE OF THE WORD

+WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP+

Upon entering the nave, please prepare for worship by attentively listening to the prelude.

Organ Prelude

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness - LBW p. 77 (*stand*)

Welcome and Announcements

The Ringing of the Bell

Introit (*Choir*)

(We stand and turn to face the cross at the back of the church as the choir sings. "Introit" means "to enter." Here we begin our church service with the theme of the day announced.)

Processional Hymn - LBW #524 *My God, How Wonderful Thou Art*

DUNDEE

(We all sing the hymn and turn to follow the cross as it moves to the altar.)

Dialogue - LBW p. 126 (middle of page)

"Holy is the Lord, the Almighty..."

Apostles' Creed - LBW p. 128 (or below)

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

Old Testament Canticle- LBW Hymn #14 *Listen! You Nations*

Prayer of the Day

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us pray: Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

Children's Sermon

(Children are invited forward for a message just for them. After the message, they can go next door to the nursery with Mrs. Bella.)

+WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD+

(In the second part of our liturgy, we hear and respond to God's word.)

First Lesson - Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm - Psalm 47



- 1 Clap your hands, | all you peoples;*
shout to God with a | cry of joy.
- 2 **For the Lord Most High is | to be feared;*
he is the great king over | all the earth.**
- 3 He subdues the | peoples under us,*
and the nations un- | der our feet.
- 4 **He chooses our inheri- | tance for us,*
the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.**
- 5 God has gone up | with a shout,*
the Lord with the sound | of the ram's horn.
- 6 **Sing praises to | God, sing praises;*
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**
- 7 For God is King of | all the earth;*
sing praises with | all your skill.
- 8 **God reigns o- | ver the nations;*
God sits upon his | holy throne.**
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gath- | ered together*
with the people of the | God of Abraham.
- 10 **The rulers of the earth be- | long to God,*
and he is high- | ly exalted.**

The Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gradual *(choir only)* *The congregation is invited to join the "Alleluias"*

The Gospel - Luke 24:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you O Christ. Alleluia!

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day - LBW Hymn #158 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

The Offering

Offertory - LBW #565 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

Congregation: 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 Prayers - LBW p. 129

The Lord's Prayer - LBW p. 130

New Testament Canticle - LBW Hymn #13 *Keep in Mind that Jesus Christ*

Benediction - LBW p. 130

Recessional Hymn - LBW #363 *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

TRURO

(As the cross is carried out, we turn to follow it as we sing. Now nurtured through God's Word, we are ready to go forth into the world again.)

Dismissal

Assisting Minister: Let us go in peace. The Word has been fulfilled.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude