

Holy Communion

Please be seated until an usher invites you forward. Those who prefer to drink from an individual cup may take one from the tray as they proceed into the half-circle; a few cups are prefilled with grape juice. Those who prefer the common cup may drink directly from the chalice, or dip the bread into it. Return to your seat by the side aisle, placing any empty cups in the tray provided there. All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. You may place the empty cup in the tray by the side aisle on your way back to your seat.

Music During Communion

Post-Communion Canticale ~ LBW p. 72 *Thank the Lord*

(We stand and sing once everyone has received the sacrament. In this song or chant, we offer our thanks and express our faith in what God has done for us and promised to do for us in the future.)

+WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD+

Post-Communion Prayer and Benediction ~ LBW p. 74

(We stay standing as the assistant minister offers a prayer of thanksgiving and petition that God will grant us faith to love our neighbor. The pastor then extends God’s blessing across us and our lives.)

Assisting Minister: Let us pray ... Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor (chanting): Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Congregation (chanting): Amen.

Recessional Hymn ~ LBW Hymn #499 – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
NETTLETON

(We stay standing and sing. As the cross is carried out, we turn to follow it as we sing. Now nurtured through God’s word and sacrament, 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

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 21 – *The Festival for Saint Matthew*

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Tuesday and Thursday

9am-2 pm First Friends

Sunday, September 21 – *The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

CHURCH STAFF

Evan McClanahan, Pastor

Mario Aschauer, Organist/Choir Director

Amanda McClanahan, Director of First Friends

Cheri Santibanez, Office Administrator

Bright Igwenagu, Sexton

Pr. Edwin Peterman, Pastor Emeritus

WORSHIP ENABLERS TODAY

Edward Scott

Matthew Scott

Tristyn Brogan

Clint Pustejovsky, Tim Baker

Dorah Mushi, Carolyn Hokanson

Amanda McClanahan

Mario Aschauer

Pastor Evan McClanahan

Assisting Minister

Server, Crucifer

Acolyte

Usher

Altar Guild

Audio/Video

Organist/Choir Director

Liturgist/Preacher



FIRST LUTHERAN
HOUSTON

SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST ~ SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

+WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP+

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

If you arrive during the Confession, please wait to enter until the Processional Hymn.

Organ Prelude

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness ~ LBW p. 56 (*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 #175 – *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

Greeting and Kyrie ~ LBW p. 57

Hymn of Praise ~ LBW p. 58 *Glory to God*

Prayer of the Day ~ LBW p. 35

Pastor: Let us pray ...

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 ~ Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

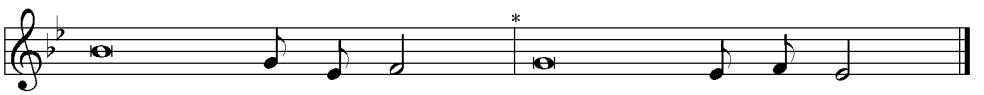
And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm ~ Psalm 119:33-40



- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,*
and I shall keep it | to the end.
- ³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your law;***
I shall keep it with | all my heart.
- ³⁵ Make me go in the path of | your commandments,*
for that is | my desire.
- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees***
and not to | unjust gain.
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from watching | what is worthless;*
give me life | in your ways.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,***
which you make to | those who fear you.
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach | which I dread,*
because your judg- | ments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;***
in your righteousness pre- | serve my life.

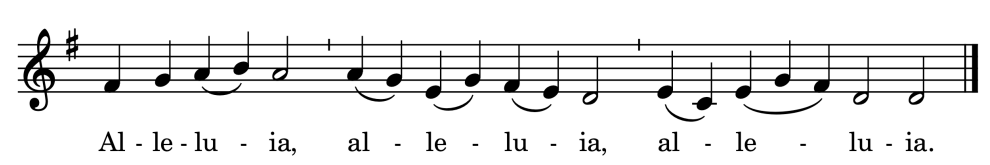
The Second Lesson ~ Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 ~ Matthew 9:9-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you O Christ.

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day ~ LBW Hymn #178 – By All Your Saints in Warfare

Vs. 1, 18, 3 KING’S LYNN

The Nicene Creed~ LBW p. 64

Prayers of the People

(The assistant minister leads us in prayer for our church, the sick and suffering, our community, and the world. We place trust in our loving God, especially for places and situations beyond our control).

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(Each petition will end with the response:)

Assisting Minister: Lord, in Your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

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

The Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

(We repeat this greeting to those around us as you are comfortable.)

Choral Anthem

The Offering

(Be seated as ushers collect the offering and the choir sings. Having heard God’s word, we thus respond in faith and thanksgiving through this act.)

Offertory ~ LBW p.66 *Let the Vineyards*

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.

+WE RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR+

(Here, Christ comes to us in the sacrament or “sacred act” of the altar. We believe that God brings himself and his forgiveness to us “in, with, and under” the bread and the wine.)

Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface ~ LBW p. 68

(We stay standing, as the pastor leads us in preparation for celebrating communion.)

Sanctus ~ LBW p. 69 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Eucharistic Prayer #33 and Words of Institution ~ LBW p. 70

(The pastor leads us in prayer, followed by the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted communion. With these words, the bread and the wine are consecrated or “set apart” for God’s use in this special meal).

Pastor: Blessed are you ... in his holy supper.

Congregation: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed ... remembrance of me

Lord’s Prayer ~ LBW p. 71

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) ~ LBW p. 72 *Lamb of God*

(We stay standing as we sing about Jesus, the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.)