

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.

Post Communion Canticle ~ LBW p. 116 *Lord, now you let your servant*

+WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD+

Post-Communion Prayer and Benediction ~ LBW p. 117

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 #104 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN

(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, March 8 – The Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

12:30 pm 175th Anniversary Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

5:30 pm Soup Supper

6:00 pm Vespers

Spring Break for First Friends

Sunday, March 15 – The Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

12:30 pm Church Council Meeting

CHURCH STAFF

Evan McClanahan, Pastor

Mario Aschauer, Organist/Choir Director

Amanda McClanahan, Director of First Friends

Cheri Santibanez, Office Administrator

Pastor Edwin Peterman, Pastor Emeritus

WORSHIP ENABLERS TODAY

Edward Scott

Matthew Scott

Whoever Available

Clint Pustejovsky, David Hokanson, Dylan Blackwell

Elise Daulley, Charlene Kelley, Whoever Available

Whoever Available

Mario Aschauer

Pastor Evan McClanahan

Assisting Minister

Server, Crucifer

Acolyte

Usher

Altar Guild

Audio/Video

Organist/Choir Director

Liturgist/Preacher



FIRST LUTHERAN
HOUSTON

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ MARCH 8, 2026

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 announcements.

Organ Prelude

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness ~ *Bulletin Insert*

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.)

Silent Processional

(During this penitential season, the procession is silent. The congregation turns to follow the cross as it moves to the altar.)

Greeting ~ LBW p. 99

Kyrie ~ LBW #168 *Kyrie, God Father*

(We ask God for mercy, unity, and peace for ourselves, our church, and all people.)

Prayer of the Day ~ LBW p. 18

(The pastor offers an appointed prayer based upon the scripture readings of the day).

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+

The First Lesson ~ Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you

struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95 (*chanted responsively*)

The choir will chant the odd numbered verses and the congregation will respond with the even numbered (bolded) verses.



¹ Come, let us sing | to the Lord;*
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

² **Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving***
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.

³ For the Lord | is a great God,* and a great King | above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,***
and the heights of the hills | are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, | for he made it,* and his hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,***
and kneel before the | Lord our Maker.

⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.* Oh, that today you would hearken | to his voice!

⁸ **Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did | in the wilderness,***
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they | tempted me.

⁹ They put me | to the test,* though they had | seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years long I detested that genera- | tion and said,***
"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not | know my ways."

¹¹ So I swore | in my wrath,* "They shall not enter in- | to my rest."

The Second Lesson ~ Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual (*choir / congregation*)

The Gospel ~ John 4:5-42

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 4th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

(This week’s Gospel lesson is quite long so it is not printed here.)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day ~ LBW #453 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

The Nicene Creed ~ LBW p. 105

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

Prayers of the People

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, along with a nod, handshake, or hug.)

The Offering

The Offertory ~ LBW #99 ~ O Lord, throughout These Forty Days vs. 1 and 4

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. 109

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) ~ LBW p. 110

Eucharistic Prayer #33 and Words of Institution ~ LBW p. 111

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.

The Lord’s Prayer ~ LBW p. 113

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) ~ LBW p.114 *Lamb of God, you take away the sins*