

+WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD+

Post-Communion Canticle ~ LBW p. 116 *Lord, now you let*
(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.)

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 Hymn #60 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ANTIOCH

(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


Sermon Notes

CALENDAR
Sunday, December 28— Christmas 1
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Thursday, January 1
All Invited to the McClanahan’s New Year’s Day Chili Get-Together
Sunday, January 4 – Christmas 2
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
Donna Bing
Edward Scott
Whoever Available
Tim Baker, Eric Olson, Mark Barid
Dorah Mushi, Adalyn McClanahan
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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ~ DECEMBER 28, 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. 98 *(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 #40 *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES
(We all sing the hymn and turn to follow the cross as it moves to the altar.)

Greeting and Kyrie ~ LBW p. 99

Hymn of Praise ~ LBW p. 100 *Glory to God in the Highest*

Prayer of the Day ~ LBW p. 14
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 ~ Isaiah 63:7-9
I will recount the gracious deeds of Yahweh, the praiseworthy acts of Yahweh, because of all that Yahweh has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody ~ Psalm 148:1-6

(Chanted responsively, choir or cantor singing odd verses, congregation singing even verses)



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.

² **Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;*
praise him, | all his host.**

³ Praise him, | sun and moon;*
praise him, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,*
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.

⁶ **He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

The Second Lesson ~ Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

The Gospel ~ Matthew 2:13-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard

in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you O Christ.

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day ~ LBW Hymn #58 *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing* ES IST EIN ROS

The Nicene Creed ~ LBW p. 105

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 #55 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

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

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

Sanctus ~ LBW p. 110 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

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

(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. 113

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) ~ LBW p. 114 *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.)

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