

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 #487 – *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN

(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 7 – *The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Harmonia Stellarum Concert

Tuesday and Thursday

9am-2 pm First Friends

Sunday, September 14 – *The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

12:30 pm Church Council

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

Rob Douglass

Karen Douglass

Whoever Available

Dylan Blackwell, David Hokanson

Adalyn McClanahan, Eric Olson

Eddie Scott

Mario Aschauer

Pastor Evan McClanahan

Assisting Minister

Server, Crucifer

Acolyte

Usher

Altar Guild

Audio/Video

Organist/Choir Director

Liturgist/Preacher



FIRST LUTHERAN
HOUSTON

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ SEPTEMBER 7, 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 #555 – *When in Our Music God is Glorified*

FREDERICKTOWN

(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. 27

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 ~ **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

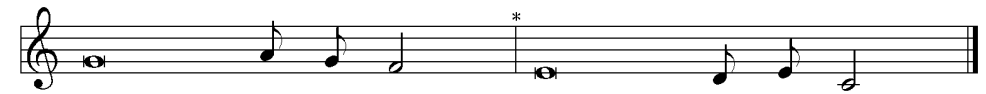
The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken,

continued on p. 2

turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Assisting Minister: The Word of the Lord.

The Psalm ~ Psalm 139:1-6



⁶ Where can I go then | from your Spirit?*
Where can I flee | from your presence?

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Hymn of the Day ~ LBW Hymn #398 – “Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said
NUN LAST UNS DEN LEIB BEGRABEN

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.

Assisting Minister: Lord, in Your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

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

(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*

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.

(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.)

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

(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).

Congregation: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

(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.)