

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9:30 AM

Christmas in July
Gathered to Worship!



Christmas
IN JULY

**To join worship on YouTube,
use the link below:**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/X3rG7AcWi6E>

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
142 North Date Street,
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-969-7221
felc@firstevlutheran.com

Pastor Luis Ochoa
480-969-7221
PastorLuis@firstevlutheran.com

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

The assembly stands.



GATHERING SONG

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW 275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

GREETING

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST

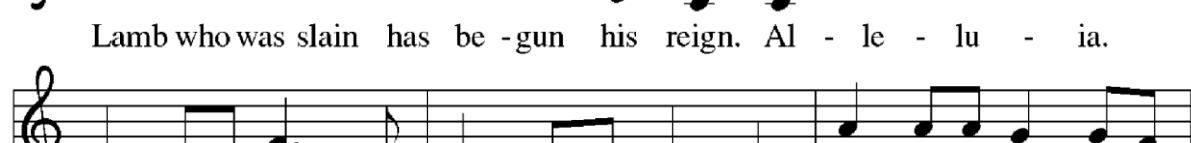
Refrain



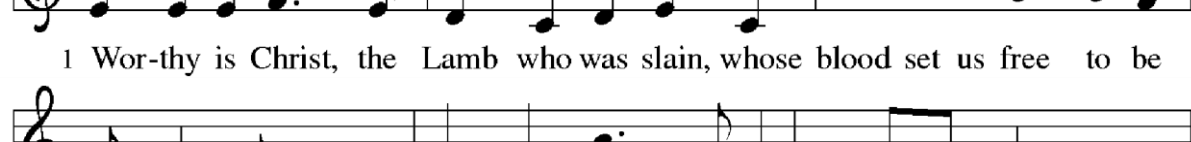
This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



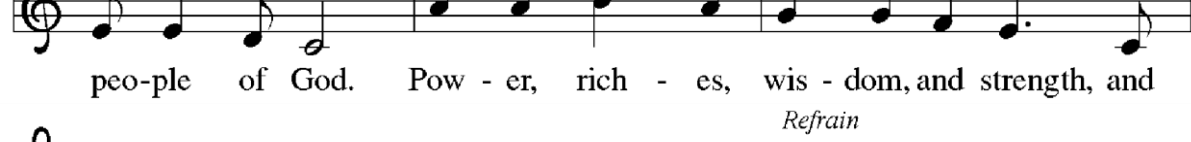
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



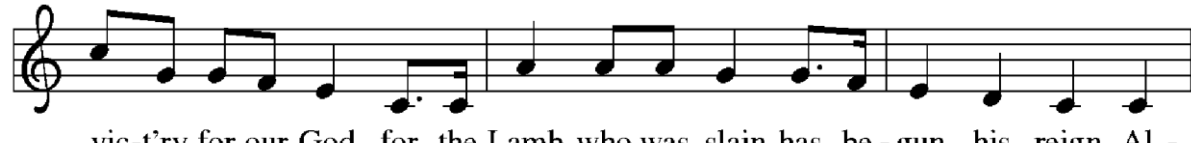
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



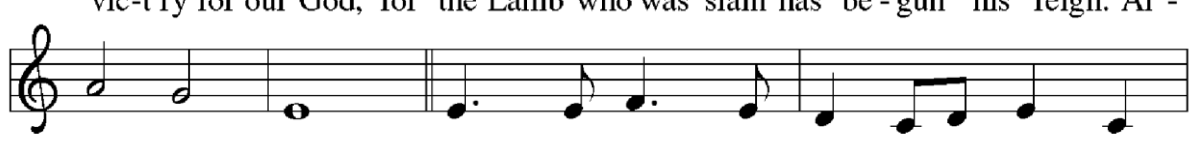
Refrain



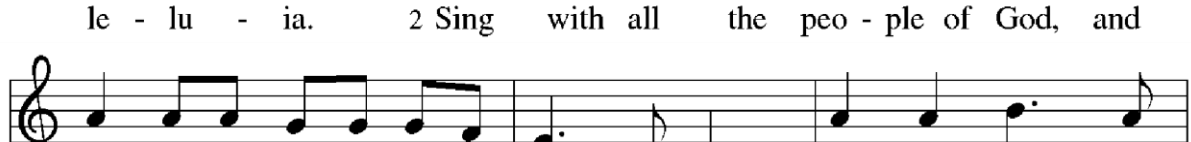
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

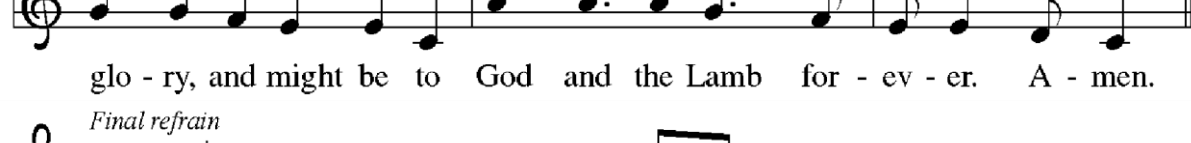


join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy;
they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SECOND LESSON - Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, ¹² training us to renounce
irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, ¹³
awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴
who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his
own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord;

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON **Luke 2:1-20**

The good news according to Timothy.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. ² This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Luis Ochoa

HYMN OF THE DAY

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made.....

God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

.....we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

A: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share a sign of God's peace.

ANTHEM

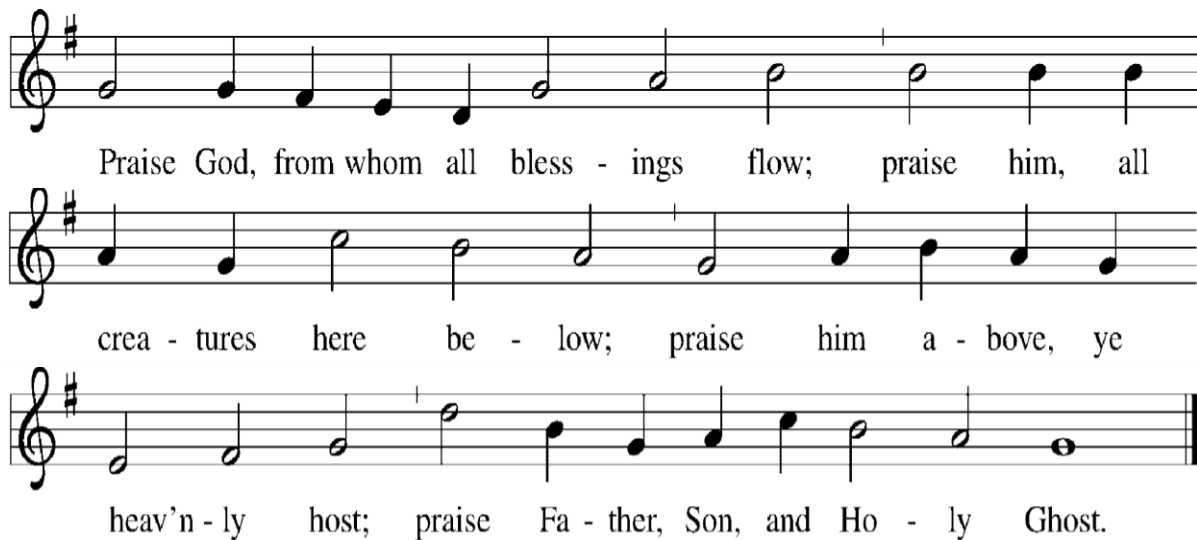
I'll Fly Away

First Family Singers

OFFERING

THE DOXOLOGY

ELW 884



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Give thanks to the Lord our God:

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take
and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance
of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it
for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for
the remembrance of me.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

A musical score for the hymn 'Lamb of God' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics written below. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.'

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

The assembly sits. We receive communion by kneeling at the altar; after receiving communion you may return to your seat.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG*Let Us Break Bread Together***ELW 471**

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

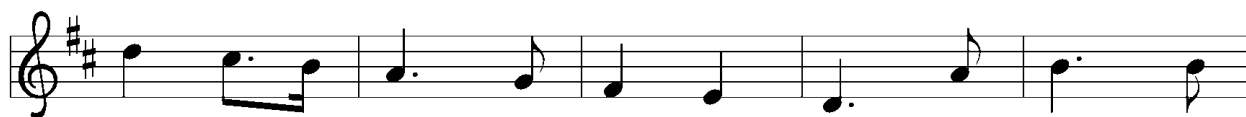
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SENDING**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG*Joy to the World***ELW 267**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!**TODAY**

Opening Prayer: Sharon Shields
 Assisting Minister: Ellen Riske
 Lector: Richard Renzema
 Communion Asst: Corinne Cursi
 Altar Guild: Susan Potter

**Altar Servers****August 2**

Opening Prayer: Corinne Cursi
 Assisting Minister: Susan Potter
 Lector: Ellen Riske
 Communion Asst: Traci Laasch
 Altar Guild: Sharon Shields

Join the First Family Singers

We will practice after worship the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and sing in worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We will keep this schedule through August. Join us!!



July – September Change for Change:



This quarter's Change for Change offering will support **Rancho del Arte!** We are collecting art supplies and snacks to bless their program.

- **Items Needed:** Thick & thin markers, mechanical pencils, acrylic paint, small canvases, peanut-free snacks, and juice boxes.
- **How to Help:** Drop your loose change in the *Change for Change* jar, or place donated items in the collection box located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generosity!

Scoop There It Is! Town Hall Ice Cream Social

Join us for great conversation and a sweet treat! The council will be providing the ice cream, but we need your help to make it a true sundae bar.

- **When:** August 2, immediately following service
- **What:** Town Hall Meeting & Sundae Bar
- **How to Help:** If you are able to bring a topping to share (sauces, sprinkles, crushed cookies, etc.), please grab a spot on the sign-up sheet located on the **office door**.



Have you ever thought about learning to play the piano?



Our pianist, Erin Hales, will be teaching piano throughout the summer!

Please contact her at 480-510-4547 or visit her website at parnassuspiano.com for more information!

BACK TO SCHOOL

BINGO

GATHER YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS,
FOR AN EVENING OF THRILLING
GAMES, FABULOUS PRIZES, AND
UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES.

FRIDAY, JULY 31 2026

6PM TO 8PM

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

142 N DATE, MESA, AZ 85201

FOOD | PRIZES | FUN

