

Sunday, September 21, 2025

9:30 AM

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathered to Worship!



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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Kt94zE-UhNM>

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

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

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

You may sit, kneel or stand as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.



GATHERING SONG

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good Where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

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.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

WORD

NARRATIVE PREACHING TEXT Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

27 When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son, and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.”² He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.”³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me,⁴ and prepare for me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat; that I may bless you before I die.”

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son;¹⁶ and the skins of the kids she put upon his hands and upon the smooth part of his neck;¹⁷ and she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.¹⁸ So he went in to his father, and said, “My father”; and he said, “Here I am; who are you, my son?”¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your first-born. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that you may bless me.”²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.”²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.”²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.¹¹ And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants;¹⁴ and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves.”¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you.”¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it.”¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 91:9-16

- ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**
¹¹ For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.
¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,**
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ **Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him;**
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble,
I will rescue him and honor him.
¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.**

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 John 1:50-51

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

⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Luis Ochoa

Hymn of the Day

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's

lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,

Sol-diers of the cross.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 2. Every round goes higher, higher
Every round goes higher, higher
Every round goes higher, higher
Soldiers of the cross. | 3. Sinner, do you love my Jesus
Sinner, do you love my Jesus
Sinner, do you love my Jesus
Soldiers of the cross. | 4. If you love Him, why not serve him?
If you love Him, why not serve him?
If you love Him, why not serve him?
Soldiers of the cross. |
|--|---|--|

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.....

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

.... in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

"We Are The Followers"

Choir

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.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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

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.



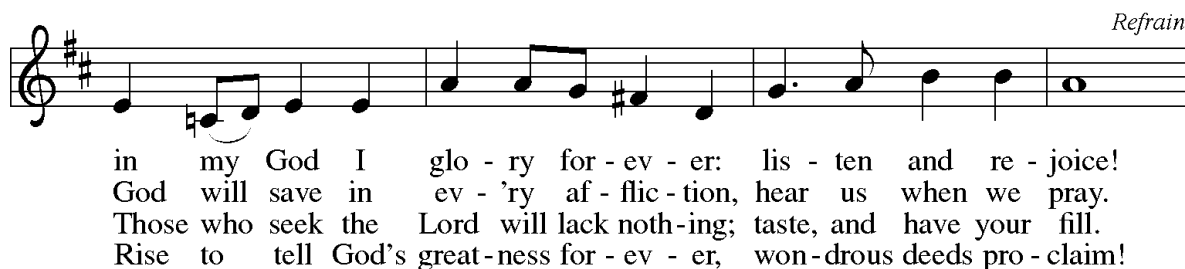
COMMUNION SONG

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW 492



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



Stand as you are able.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

BLESSING

P: Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the blessing and peace of God be with you and the whole world. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

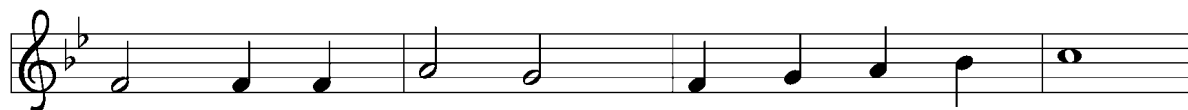
ELW 800



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Altar Servers

TODAY

Opening Prayer: Marilyn Bloom
 Assisting Minister: Diane Johnson
 Lector: Corinne Cursi
 Communion Asst: Ellen Riske
 Altar Guild: Traci Laasch
 Sunday School: Traci Laasch

September 28

Opening Prayer: Corinne Cursi
 Assisting Minister: Kathleen Rogers
 Lector: Laura O'Connell
 Communion Asst: Rick & Barbie Luxem
 Altar Guild: Traci Laasch
 Sunday School: Susan Potter



The October/November newsletter is in the deadline stage.

If you have something you would like to be included in this issue, please email the church by September 22:

felc@firstevlutheran.com

3rd Quarter Change for Change Offering

We are supporting Rancho del Arte
(K-6 after school program).

They are in need of:
colored pencils
mechanical pencils
spiral notebooks
loose leaf paper with 2-pocket folders
construction paper
markers - they go through a lot of markers!

Through September, you can drop off your supplies at the box in the Narthex.

If you'd rather donate money, just toss it in the Change for Change jar. We'll take care of the shopping for you!

Any questions ask Traci.





**We need you and your trunk to
make this night a success!**

October 31, 6-8 PM

Can't come with your trunk? We
also need donations of candy!

Please sign up on the
sheet on the office door
if you plan to provide a
trunk!



Spanish Bible Study
followed by Fellowship

Mondays 6 PM
Conference Room.





Choir rehearsals have begun!

Wednesdays

6:30 PM

Next meeting
September 30 at 4:30 PM.



**Benefit Concert for Hands of Joy Choir, a sign-language choir,
Sunday, September 28 at 2 PM
Bethlehem Lutheran Church.**

There is a potluck afterwards at 3 PM, so bring a dish to share if you wish to stay and fellowship.

AnnaMarie Freeman is a part of the Hands of Joy Choir and extends this invitation to you!



K- 6th grade

Children will be dismissed from the worship service
after the Opening Prayer.

Teachers:

Traci Laasch

Susan Potter

Sharon Shields