

A cordial welcome to all who are visiting with us today! Please sign a Visitor Card from the pew rack or the Guest Book near the entrance. Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments on the front lawn or in the narthex.

A Nursery for children under six is available each Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Lutheran worship calls for more standing than in many non-Lutheran churches. Persons unable to stand during the service may remain seated. Also, persons who have difficulty walking may sit in the very front pew and receive communion there.

Holy Communion in our congregation is open to all baptized Christians. Lutherans believe and teach that in this sacrament Jesus Christ is truly present to heal our brokenness and empower our lives. After the worship leaders have communed, congregants come forward in two lines in the center aisle. They obtain an empty glass or, if preferred, a glass of white grape juice from an usher at the front of the aisle, and then stand around the carpet. Communicants consume the bread and wine right after receiving them, and wait for the blessing. After the blessing, the communicants in front lead the lines to the side aisles, where communion glasses are placed in the baskets provided, and all return to their seats.

Communicants are asked to complete a Communion Record Card and place it in the offering.

Sunday Church School for all ages is available from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The Adult Class meets in the parish hall and is currently studying the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Peterman.

The Chancel Flowers are given today by the Peterman family to the Glory of God and in honor of Jane Peterman's seventy-fifth birthday.

New Members are received today. We welcome Linda Herrmann, by Affirmation of Faith, Dawn Tiedemann, by Transfer from Christ Lutheran Church, Lake Jackson, Texas.

Calendar

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Congregation Council meeting
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
Next Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Education and Fellowship Committee meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Evangelism and Publicity Committee meeting

The Order of Service

The Prelude

Two Preludes on "All Glory Be to God on High"

Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

The Introit (Choir)

Blessed Be the Holy Trinity

Text: Ancient Source

Setting: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

The Entrance Hymn ELW 413

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

The Kyrie

LBW, pages 78-79

The Hymn of Praise **ELW, hymn 410 - All Glory Be to God on High**

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Chapter 1

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the

light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Chapter 2

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 8

¹O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
⁹O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Stand

The Verse (Choir Scholar)

Blessed Art Thou, O Lord

Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day

Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel

Matthew 28:16–20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

The Sermon

God is not a Committee

Stand

The Hymn of the Day and Creed ELW 411

We All Believe in One True God

ELW hymn 411, "We All Believe in One True God."

Sit

The Reception of New Members

Stand

The Prayer of the Church

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R: Peace be with you.

Sit

The Offering

The Anthem

When My Last Hour Is Close at Hand
Adam Gumpelzhaimer (1559-1625)

The Offertory **ELW hymn 884**

The Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Merciful Father,

C: 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

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

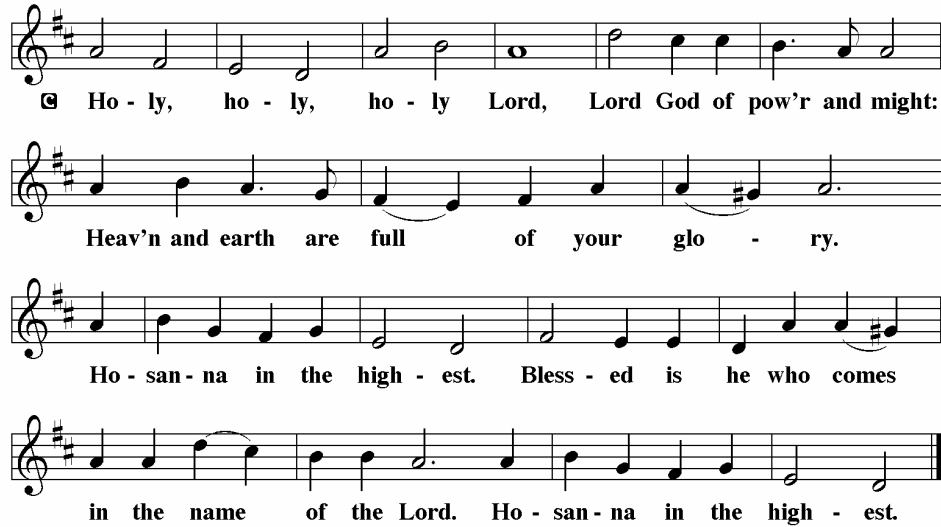
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in

majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus



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

The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

The Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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

The Agnus Dei LBW hymn 103

Sit

The Communion

Communicants consume the elements upon receiving them, remain in place for the blessing, and then return to their seats.

The Anthem

O Trinity of Blessed Light
Text: St. Ambrose of Milan (340-97)
Melody: Plainsong, Mode VIII
Setting: Johann Sebastian Bach

The Communion Blessing (After each table of communicants)

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

C: Amen

Stand

The LBW, pages 92-93

The Prayer

A: Let us pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

The Benediction

LBW page 94

The Recessional Hymn ELW 414

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

The Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Flor Peeters (1903-86)

WORSHIP ENABLERS

Rayfus Ferdinand.....Bell Ringer
Greg Ranft.....Usher
Maridith Allen.....Usher
Meredith Allen.....Usher
Victor Houston.....Usher
Jeffrey Hokanson.....Verger
Lois Good, Tracy Walton.....Altar Guild
Jackson Felder.....Cantor
Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
Carroll Shaddock.....Choir Director

Peter Hokanson.....Crucifer
 Caroline Lucke.....Acolyte
 Curtis Allen.....Server
 George Soutter.....Assisting Minister
 The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Presiding Minister

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Pastor
 Millie Thibodeaux.....Parish Administrator
 Marty Ambrose.....Director of Public Relations
 Charline R. Thompson.....Office Manager/Secretary
 Allison Silk.....Nursery Attendant
 Rayfus Ferdinand.....Custodian
 Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
 Carroll Shaddock.....Director of Worship and Music

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1851, and played a vital role in the formation of Lutheranism in Texas. The church building is located at Holman and Caroline, across the street from Houston Community College, convenient to the Ensemble/HCC Metro-rail stop in the 3400 block of Main Street.



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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sunday May 18, 2008