



The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2010

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

A Nursery for children under six is available each Sunday morning.

Lutheran worship calls for more standing than in many other 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. 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 upon receiving them, and wait for the blessing. Then they go to the side aisles, place the communion glasses in the baskets provided, and return to their seats.

Sunday Church School for youth and adults is available from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The class meets in the Parish Hall. Next Sunday Pastor McClanahan will lead a study of Bach's cantata, *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*, which will be presented at the Bach Vespers that evening.

Communicants are asked to complete a communion card and place it in the offering.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held today at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. On the agenda will be the adoption of the 2010 budget and a motion to postpone the remainder of the agenda to a meeting on February 28, 2010.

Worship Enabler Training will be held today at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for all who wish to serve as crucifer, acolytes, servers, assisting ministers and ushers in the coming year.

A Bach Vespers announcement is on the back page.

Calendar

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Potluck Luncheon
	1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting
	1:30 p.m.	Worship Enabler Training
Next Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	6:00 p.m.	Bach Vespers

The Order of Service

The Prelude

Andante, from Organ Concerto in F
G. F. Handel (1685-1759), arr. Walter Buszin

The Trinitarian Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

Introit (Choir Scholars)

Be Thou My Strong Rock
Text: Ancient source
Music: 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 forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

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

Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer-cy.

Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

The Hymn of Praise



♩ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav'n - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther: We wor - ship



you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 1:4–10

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you"
says the Lord.

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 71:1–6

¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

**⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord God,
my confidence since I was young.

**⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my
mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. A:
The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Stand

The Verse (Cantor)

Thou Art the God That Doest Wonders

Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day

Music: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel

Luke 4:21–30

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at

the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

The Sermon

Letting Go of Jesus

Stand

The Hymn of the Day ELW 676

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak
CANONBURY

The Apostolic Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

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 (Choir)

Wondrous Love
American folk hymn,
arr. Paul Christiansen (1914-97)

Stand

The Offertory

Musical score for 'The Offertory' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.'

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.

Musical score for 'The Offertory Prayer' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

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, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en 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

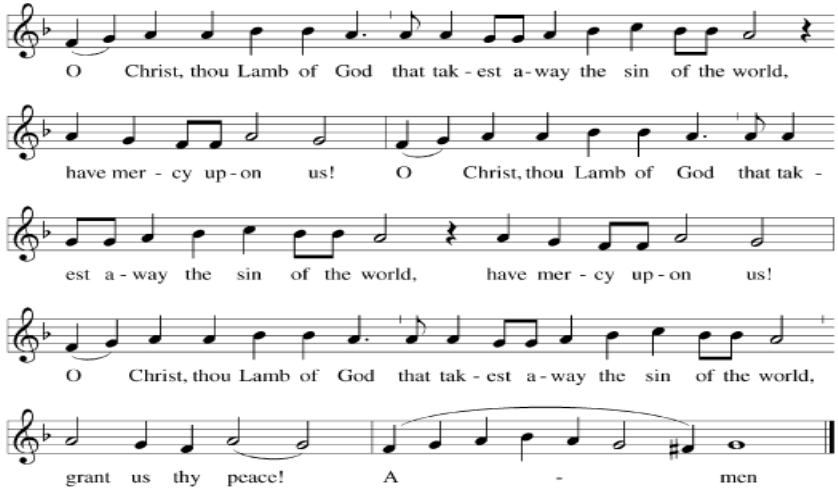
The Words of Institution

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



O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - men

Sit

The Communion

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

The Anthem (Choir Scholars)

Fairest Lord Jesus

Text and melody: Anonymous (*Münster*, 1677),
arr. Christoph Dalitz (2008)

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 Canticle



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

The 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; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

The Benediction



Ⓟ Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, Ⓞ A - men
bless you now and for - ever.

The Recessional Hymn ELW 688

O Zion, Haste
ABBOT'S LEIGH

The Postlude

Chorale Prelude on "Angelic Songs"
Donald Busarow (b. 1934)

Bach Vespers at First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Next Sunday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m., our congregation will present Bach Vespers, a service of evening prayer featuring the professional Bach Choir and Orchestra of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Internationally acclaimed counter-tenor Ryland Angel will be the soloist in J. S. Bach's cantata, *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*, BWV 54. Also on the program are *Befiehl dem Engel, dass er komm* by Dieterich Buxtehude; *Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz*, by Johannes Brahms; and an organ concerto by G. F. Handel.

The Society for Early Music of the Church at First Evangelical Lutheran Church is sponsoring the event, which is part of the Bach Society's regular season. A free-will offering will help to offset the cost of the presentation.

WORSHIP ENABLERS

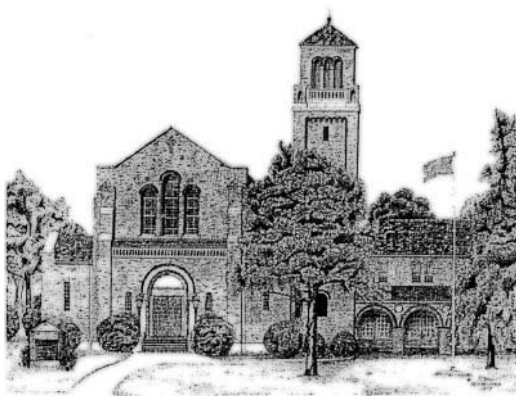
Maridith Allen.....	Usher
Jim McLane.....	Usher
Joshua Guntow.....	Usher
Steve Mitby.....	Usher
Cameron Miller.....	Crucifer
Jacob Miller.....	Acolyte
Jim Castro.....	Server
Peter Hokanson.....	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan.....	Presiding Minister
Fran Allen.....	Verger
Fran Allen, Alberta Rogers.....	Altar Guild
Jackson Felder.....	Cantor
Carroll Shaddock.....	Choir Director
Dorry Shaddock.....	Organist

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan, STS.....	Pastor
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman, STS.....	Consulting Pastor
Sabrina Smitherman.....	Secretary
Janice McLennan.....	Nursery Attendant
Carroll Shaddock.....	Director of Worship and Music
Dorry Shaddock.....	Organist

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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 the Houston Community College, convenient to the Ensemble/HCC Metro-rail stop in the 3400 block of Main Street.



Houston's Historic
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