



A Guide to Our Lutheran Worship

(largely from Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA)

If you are new to First English Lutheran Church (FELC) and wonder what's going on in worship, don't worry. Liturgical-based worship isn't as confusing as it might look. Our worship space (Sanctuary) is light-filled with large view screens to lead us through our worship. Not able to attend in person? Please join us through our Facebook videos via the Homepage "Videos" button or,

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstEnglishLutheran/videos>.

This page is designed to give you a brief guide to our hymnal, *The Lutheran Service Book* (LSB).

This guide will walk you through a typical Divine Service of our congregation and explain some of our beliefs and practices. If at any point you need further clarification about our service, please speak with the pastor or one of our elders before or after the service, and they will be happy to assist you.

We use LSB and *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*. You will find that when using Creative Worship all of the words and information you need will be found on the screens during worship or in the bulletin prepared for you each week.

Finding Your Place – The Sections of the Hymnal



The *Lutheran Service Book* contains a great deal of information about our confession of faith. However, for our service today, the two main sections we need : the **Divine Service**, and the **Hymns**.

Each of the three listed above are in the following pages.

- **151-218 Divine Services**
- **331 - 1023 Hymns**

If you have time, you may also want to explore other sections of the hymnal. A useful section for understanding what we as Lutherans believe can be found on page 321, The Small Catechism. There are also prayers for you on the inside front cover.

Marking Your Place – Order of Service and Hymns

Before the service starts, you may find it helpful to mark your hymnal with the ribbons. You can find which Order of Service and which hymns will be used in the bulletin.

In addition to the bookmarks that are attached to the hymnal, you can also use your bulletin as a marker.

Almost every service will begin with a hymn. The page number for a hymn will be in the bulletin, on the number board up front, and view screens.

If you are unfamiliar with singing from sheet music, we sing the first line of each stanza and then the second line and so on. You can see this by following the dashed line below in the sample song below.

Start - - - - -

1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly -
2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,

seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!

And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing
Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y

tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Back to next verse

Invocation and the Sign of the Cross

At the beginning of the Divine Service, the *Invocation* calls upon God's name and shows us that this is **His Service to us**, not ours or someone else's. During the *Invocation*, the pastor reminds us of our own Baptism by making the sign of the cross. (Baptism is where we first received the sign of the cross.) You and those around you may also desire to make the sign of the cross to remember your Baptism.

Confession and Absolution

During the Confession of Sins, we acknowledge that we are sinful by nature and by our actions and therefore fail to meet God's righteous judgment against us for our sins. But the Lord is present with us and because He has conquered sin, death and the devil through His death and resurrection, we receive the forgiveness of our sins.



1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." ([ESV](#))

Through the mouth of God's servant, the pastor, our Lord declares His grace and mercy to us and that our sins are forgiven. The Absolution speaks the Gospel to us in a very personal way. In the Gospel, we receive the salvation earned by Christ on the cross; all our sins are covered by His blessed death. The pastor indeed does have the authority, given by Christ, (as one called by God and ordained through the church) to speak God's word of forgiveness to the repentant sinner in the stead and name of Christ. (See Matt. 16:18; 18:15-19; Jn. 20:22-23)

The Service of the Word

The *Service of the Word* is the portion of the service where the Risen Christ comes to teach us through His word. This portion of the service holds to traditions of the ancient church's worship that is centered on the reading of the Scriptures. The public reading of the Scriptures and proclamation of the Word is at the heart of our service.

1 Timothy 4:13 The foundation of our faith is that the Word of God alone raises us up to be the children of God.

Kyrie

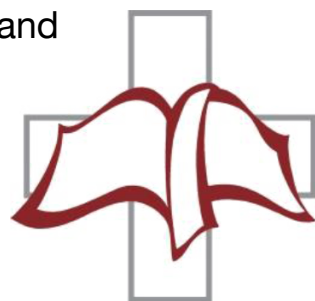
The first prayer of the congregation is the *Kyrie*. It is a deep cry for mercy. We are beggars before God. We cry out because God has promised to hear us sinners and lavish His gifts upon us.

Hymn of Praise

The *Hymn of Praise* to be sung depends on the season in the church year. The congregation will sing the *Gloria in Excelsis* (Glory to God in the Highest), *This is the Feast* or a *substituted hymn*. During Advent or Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted, because we are in a penitential season. You can tell if it is Lent or Advent because the color of the altar and the pastor's stole is either purple or blue.

The Scripture Readings

We read from the *Old Testament*, from an apostolic *Epistle* (Letter), and from the *Gospel*. In a very real way, the readings from the Old Testament and the Epistle find their fulfillment in the Gospel reading. The readings do this not by simply telling us about Jesus, but by **giving us Jesus**, who was crucified for our sins and raised from the dead so that we might be saved. The *Word of God* is the *Word of Life*. You can read the Scripture readings along with the pastor on the back the bulletin or the view screen.



Romans 10:17 " So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
([ESV](#))"

Hymn of the Day or Sermon Hymn

The *Hymn of the Day* is the chief hymn of the *Divine Service* and keeps with the theme of the day's service. It also helps prepare our hearts for the Sermon. You can find the number of the *Hymn of the Day* printed in the bulletin, the number board up front, or view screen. Remember, the hymns are located between pages 331-1032. The words of the hymns are also displayed on the view screen.

The Sermon

Our Lord sent His apostles into the world to preach the forgiveness of sins, the promise of eternal life, and our salvation found in Christ Jesus. In the Sermon, this same word is proclaimed to us today. The pastor's Sermon is the living voice of Christ proclaiming both Law and Gospel usually from the appointed Scripture readings.

Creed

Having received the Word of the Lord, we respond by confessing our common Christian faith by speaking an historic Creed. The word Creed comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means “I believe.” Through the Creed, we express our unity of faith throughout the world and across the ages.



Romans 10:9 "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. " (ESV)

Prayer of the Church

In the *Prayer of the Church*, we pray not only for our own needs, but also for the needs of our neighbor. This is seen by the invitation “Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.” This is the longest prayer of the service and may include prayers for: the local congregation, the church at large, for right teaching, protection from the devil, the government, the military, all who suffer, the welfare and safety of ourselves and others, for the conversion of the unbeliever and the restoration of those who have left the Church.

Offering

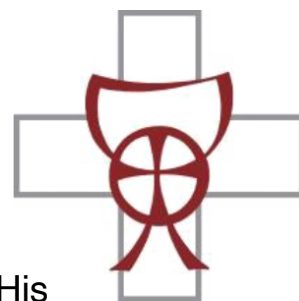
Just as we respond to hearing God’s Word in prayer and praise, we also respond in the Offering by returning to God a small portion of the gracious gifts He has bestowed on us. (The offering plate is near the entrance to the Sanctuary.)

The Service of the Sacrament

The *Service of the Sacrament* is the celebration of the *Lord’s Supper*, which was instituted by Christ for the forgiveness of sins. (Mt. 26:26ff) During the *Lord’s Supper*, we partake of Christ’s sacrifice and atonement in His true body and blood. Through this we are made one with Him and all Christians throughout the world and all the saints who have gone before. Jesus’ blood was shed on Calvary and Christ gives us this to eat and drink by the fruits of the cross, the Savior’s body and blood under bread and wine. This is why we call it *Holy Communion*.

FELC Practice of Holy Communion

As a member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), Holy Communion is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, are baptized, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive.



Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from FELC and the LC-MS, yet desire to receive Holy Communion are asked to first speak with our pastor.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 10:15-35, 26:26-29, 1Cor 11:17-34.

Distribution Hymn

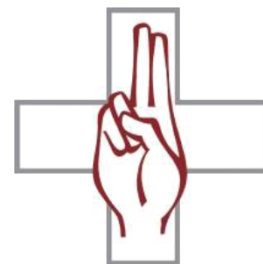
During the distribution of the *Lord's Supper* the congregation usually sings one or more Hymns.

Lord's Prayer

The *Lord's Prayer* is the chief prayer of the Christian Church and was taught to us by Jesus in the 6th chapter of Matthew. For more information about the *Lord's Prayer*, see page 323 of the Hymnal.

Benediction

We end our service in the same manner we began- in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Now the congregation departs in peace, reassured in the knowledge that their sins are forgiven.



If you have any further questions please speak with the pastor or one of the elders and they will be happy to assist you. More information about our Church's beliefs can be found on our synod's website at www.lcms.org, or here on our website under the Menu > About Us > Beliefs.

We hope and pray you join in the Divine Service with us again!

"Wherever the Word is heard, where Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar, the absolution are administered, there you may conclude with certainty: 'This is surely God's house; here heaven has been opened.'" – Dr. Martin Luther