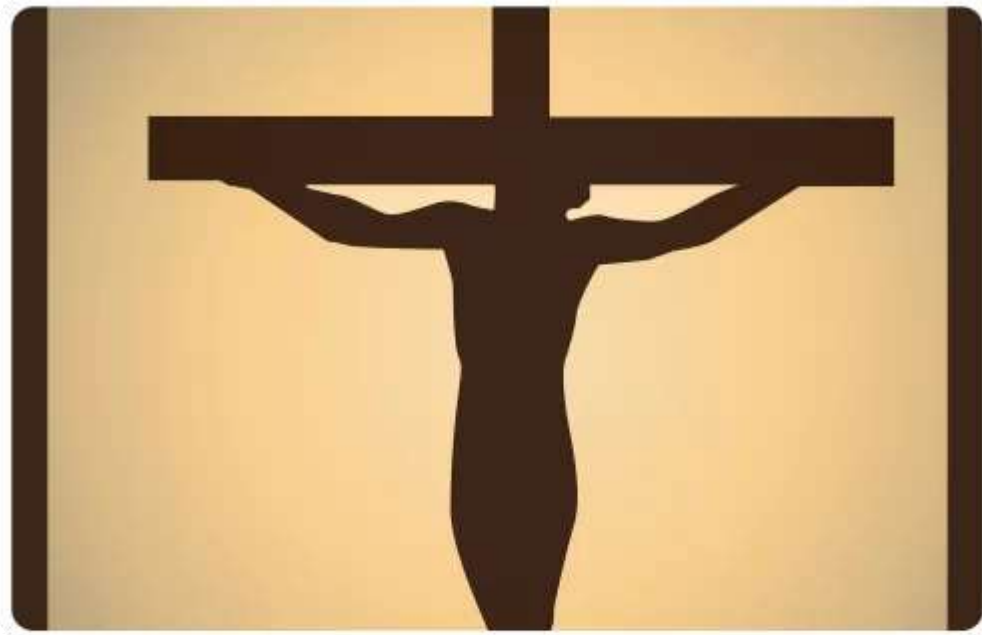


WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday, September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost



HOLY CROSS DAY

14 SEPTEMBER

First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches

2740 Parker Ave.

West Palm Beach, FL 33405

www.felcwpb.com

“We are a community of churches and a church to the community.”

Welcome to worship with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. We come together for worship each Sunday to share in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ with our own unique traditions and history. Seven other Christian ministries are located onsite with us.

If you are a guest or visitor and would like to know more about First Evangelical or Holy Cross, please reach out to one of our ushers, pastors, or fill out a welcome card and drop it in the offering boxes.

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. May God bless you.

WELCOME / INVOCATION

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Gather Us In"



- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Father 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Everlasting Father,

C: We confess how we have not lived as your people.

**We serve many masters—work, wealth, power, addictions—
yet find no hope in them.**

**We hear the cries of the poor,
and shut the doors of our hearts to them.**

We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us.

**Forgive us, our compassionate God,
and heal us of our brokenness.**

**Make us well, so that by our healing,
we might be the hope and love others need in their lives,
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
brought these gifts to us,
calling us to be faithful
with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us.**

P: Now that we have let go of the pain,
the bitterness, the anger of our lives,
let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other,
forgiving as God has forgiven us.

**C: We are God's beloved children,
and will model God's grace and love in our hearts.
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Shepherd Me O God”

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

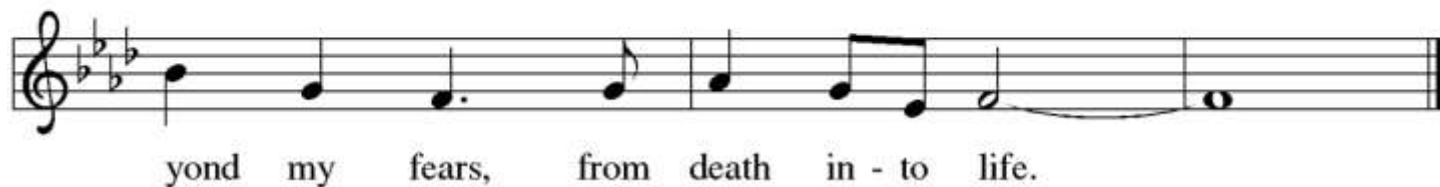
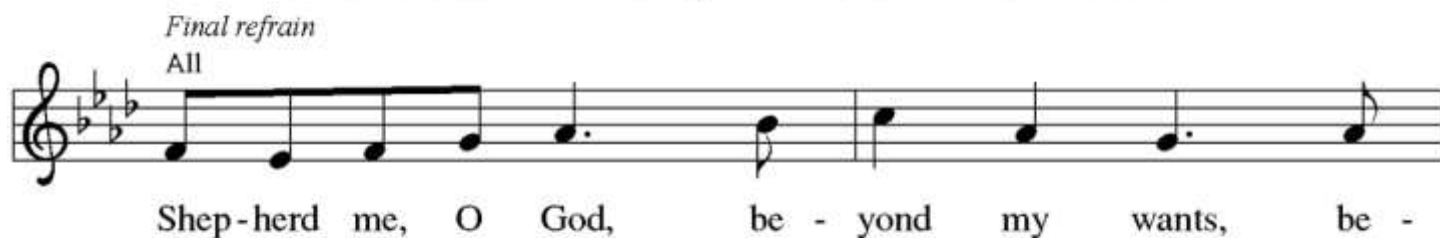
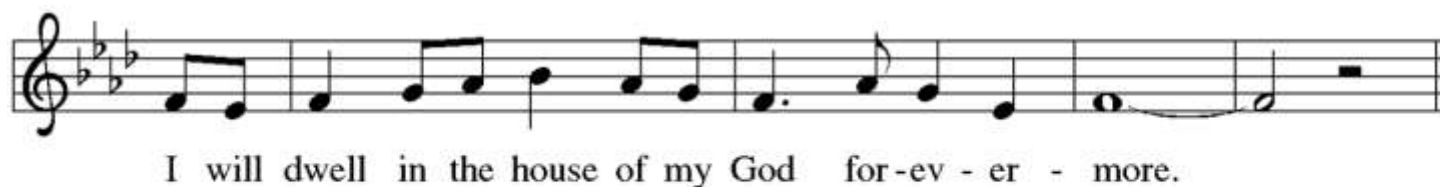


rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . .

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The altar flowers today were given by **Andi Devine** in memory of her late husband **Leonard Devine**.
- The **Centennial Committee** will meet on 28th after worship to continue planning for our 100th Anniversary! We are looking for more volunteers willing to help with the Anniversary Sunday, April 12, 2026. Let us know!
- Join the **Church Pop Up Choir** as we rehearse after worship today and sing on September 28th during worship (rehearse prior to worship).
- **First Evangelical Church Council** meets after worship today.
- Are you interested in helping volunteer with **ushering, greeting**, or with the **altar guild**? Sign up at the back of the church or contact the office. We will be having brief training sessions after worship in October. Come check it out!
- **Conniston Middle School** is in need of the following items to be donated so they can hand them out to students in need. The need is ASAP but no exact deadline as they get dispersed throughout the school year.
Mesh Backpacks (clear or mesh fabric) - Glue Sticks
Notebooks with lined paper - Pencil Pouches
- Our **Food Drive** provided the Palm Beach County Food Bank with a **FINAL TOTAL of 270 pounds** of food providing over **240 nutritious meals** for families, children, seniors and individuals in need throughout Palm Beach County. Thank you, Jada, for heading up this project and all who participated!
- Join us for a **delicious lunch** following worship today in the Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The elementary-aged children are excused for Flame, our **Sunday School class**.*

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

The Bronze Snake

^{4b} The people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

18:¹ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: John 3:13-17

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - *The Three Lessons (OT/NT)*

Pastor Michael Breznen

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

APOSTLES' 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

THE OFFERING

*Your OFFERING is received in the back of the church.
Separate BOXES are available for both Holy Cross &
First Evangelical churches.*

For First Evangelical only, you can give online at
www.felcwpb.com or TEXT2GIVE 844-504-1678 or
Scan QR Code.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

SONG: “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 DISTRIBUTION – CONTINUOUS FORMAT *(Silence is appreciated)*

We practice Open Communion at Holy Cross and First Evangelical. If you believe that the Holy Sacrament carries with it the promises of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and are a **baptized Christian** – you are welcome to receive. We do ask, however, that younger children who have not yet been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament - please come to the chancel for a blessing but refrain from receiving. Grape juice is in the center of the communion trays.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BENEDICTION/ BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME to all and thank you for joining us in worship today as we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that the service will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are a first-time visitor, please sign the Guest Register. You are invited to stay for coffee and refreshments following the service. We very much would like to greet you and hope to make you feel welcome.

Serving in Worship

Pastors	- Rev. Daniel D. Baker & Rev. Dr. Michael Breznen
Crucifers	- Tom Kalorgis, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
Liturgists	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz
Communion	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
Assistants	
Sound/Live Stream	- Ken Burton
Video	- Sera Butz, Scot Alexander

	This Week	Next Week
Musicians	Sandra Baran	CAC-WPB
Lector	Vince Burkhardt	Judith Miller

Remember in Prayer

We pray for peace between nations and peoples and for just resolutions to the conflicts throughout the world – especially the people of Israel and fellow believers facing life-threatening persecution; those in war-torn countries; for all members of our armed services and law enforcement personnel; for our country and our nation’s leaders; for the Church, Church leaders, for **Youth for Christ**, and all faithful witnesses to the Gospel; for our missionaries – **Anthony and Soyoung Sellari** and their work in Egypt.

We pray for God’s healing presence to be with: **Cynthia Amsden, Dylan Bauer, John Ackerman, Frank Eddie, Kirk, Leona, Lisa & Don, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David S, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn, and Patrick; Lesley Hogan** (friend of Katherine Summers); **Linda Zier** – lung cancer (Lori Kinney’s friend); **Cyndy Sellari** (for healing); **Joan Cannon** (health issues); and members of the **Holy Cross and First Evangelical Church** families who are at home and unable to attend.

Visit, like, and follow us on our social media platforms and website.



First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches

2740 Parker Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33405
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Website: felcwpb.com
Email: info@felcwpb.com

Church Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday – Friday
9 a.m. until 1 p.m.