Welcome

Laurie Kenyon (MDiv ’18)

Call to Worship

L:  No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We live in the belief that every person is a Child of God, and all are welcome in God’s Loving Embrace.

All:  If you are young or old, you are welcome; If you have dark skin, medium skin or light skin, you are welcome;

L:  If you are married or single, dating, divorced, engaged or widowed, you are welcome; If you are gay or straight, bisexual, transgender or questioning, you are welcome;

All:  If you are happy or sad, you are welcome; If you are poor or rich, powerful or weak, you are welcome;

L:  If you need to be forgiven, or if you need to forgive someone else, you are welcome; If you believe in God some of the time, none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome.

All:  Come with your gifts, your pain, your hopes, your fears; Come with the traditions that have helped you and hurt you; Come with your experiences that have built you up and broken you down.

L:  Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit calling us to love our neighbor, seek justice, create peace, practice forgiveness, foster community and embody God’s grace.

All:  All are welcome here, and all means ALL.

* Opening Hymn: “Gather Us In”  

MUO #9

* Please stand in body and/or spirit.
Faithful Profiles in Black History: Rev. Earlean Miller

Sherine Thomas (MDiv ’17)

Response: We honor and lift up this faithful profile in Black History. May their example inspire us and lead us forth.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Travis Woodfield (MDiv ’18)

L:  Word of God, Word of Life.

All:  Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading and Sermon

Jay Hilbinger

L:  The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

All:  Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

L:  The Gospel of our Lord.

All:  Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of the Church

Athena Bless (MDiv ’17)

L:  Lord, in your mercy.

All:  Hear our prayer.

* Greeting of Peace

Athena Bless

L:  The peace of Christ be with you always.

All:  And also with you.
Meal

Welcome to the Table

Jay Hilbinger

L: From St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

All: “This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

L: In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying,

All: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

L: Bread, Wine and Juice – A simple meal and a timeless mystery:

All: God satisfying our hunger for life, and our thirst for purpose.

L: Bread, Wine and Juice – Conveying the powerful promises of Christ:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. God is fully present to us. And we are fully present to God, who lives within us and through us.

L: Bread, Wine and Juice – Like Jesus’ own life, given in love for you, for me, for all;

All: C: We are God’s Living Bread and God’s Cup of Healing for the world. Amen.

Communion Hymn: “Draw Us in The Spirit’s Tether”
1. Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, For when
   humble in your name, Two or
   name of Christ to sup, Then with
   sacraments of you, That by

2. As disciples used to gather, In the
   three are met together, You are in the
   thanks to God the Father Break the bread and
   caring, helping, giving, We may be dis-

3. All our meals and all our living Make as
   midst of them; Alleluia! Alleluia!
   bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia!
   disciples true. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Touch we now your garment’s hem.
So now bind our friendship up.
We will serve with faith anew.
Blessing

L: The risen presence and the life-giving love of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending

* Sending Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.

* Closing Hymn: “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” MUO #113

First time English, second time Spanish.

* Dismissal

L: Go with Christ, and go as Christ, to love and serve God’s world.

All: Thanks be to God!
Today we celebrate Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Day at Wake Forest University School of Divinity as part of our series of denominational days. We welcome as worship leaders for this service Jay Hillbinger, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro, and our ELCA students.

**God’s work. Our hands.**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**This is Christ’s church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God’s work in Christ’s name for the life of the world.
Notes for Today’s Worship

About the Worship Leader
Rev. Jay Hilbinger grew up in and around Baltimore, MD, and received his B.S. degree in Business Administration from UNCG in 1984. Rev. Hilbinger began serving First Lutheran in January, 1997, after 7 years with Ebenezer Lutheran in Columbia, SC, where he earned his M. Div. degree at Lutheran Seminary in 1989. One of Rev. Hilbinger’s favorite Bible stories is Mark 9:14-29, in which the father of a boy who needs healing says to Jesus, “I believe; help my unbelief!” One of his favorite quotes is from Martin Luther, “The church exists in a constant state of reform.” Rev. Hilbinger’s professional emphases include LGBTQ inclusion, contemporary worship, progressive Christianity, contemplative prayer and mindfulness practices, and campus ministry. For leisure and recreation, Rev. Hilbinger enjoys music, movies, cooking, tennis and basketball.

Communion
Communion today is celebrated by intinction. You will be given a piece of bread that you are invited to dip into the wine or grape juice. The bread is gluten-free and baked by Marisa Fraley (MDiv ‘17).

Wine and grape juice are present in both chalices. Wine is in the lesser-filled side of the chalice and inscribed with a “W.” Grape juice is in the greater-filled side of the chalice and is inscribed with a “J.”

Worship
Today’s service was planned by Rev. Jay Hilbinger, Amanda Kerr (MDiv ‘18), Michaiah Hinds (MDiv ‘18), Athena Bless (MDiv ‘17), and Laurie Kenyon (MDiv ’18).

The altar design was created by Demi McCoy (MDiv ‘17).

The bulletin cover is taken from faithlutherandeland.org.

The Call to Worship is adapted from Gordon Brown’s *Shaping Sanctuary.*