

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 W. Decatur St.
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783

www.felcdecatur.org

We have a livestream option on our website! <https://felcdecatur.org/live>

SCRIPTURES: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

December 19, 2021 at 9:30 am
HOLY COMMUNION
4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Advent Meditation”
Bell Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

GREETING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent IV

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,
Surprise us by your coming.

A: We gather together to let God’s good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel,
Surprise us by your coming.

P: We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us. O Emmanuel,
Surprise us by your coming.

A: We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment. O Emmanuel,
Surprise us by your coming.

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

Light all four candles.

SONG

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW #240, stz. 4

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**
Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG**

“Savior of the Nations Come”

ELW #263

***KYRIE (Spoken)**

(ELW pp. 156-157, setting 5)

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

All Glory be to God on High

(ELW p. 159, setting 5)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Advent”

arr. David Davenport

FIRST READING:

MICAH 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Luke 1:38)

(ELW p. 160, setting 5)

Alleluia. Here I am, the servant | of the Lord; let it be with me according | to your word. **Alleluia.**

The holy gospel according to
Glory to you, O Lord.

LUKE 1: 39-55

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

Molly Berry sings THE MAGNIFICAT from "Holden Evening Prayer" by Marty Haugen.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW #723

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

(ELW p. 105)

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick and those we now mention in our hearts (pause...). Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Here us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***PEACE**

OFFERING

“My Lord, He Is a Comin’ Soon”

**Laura Winnen
& Jeff Cothran**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

(ELW p. 112 right side)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Receive communion *“the body of Christ given for you”* & *“the blood of Christ shed for you”*)

COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

(ELW p. 164, setting 5)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***BLESSING**

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

ELW #266

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Isaac Ford
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist	Rick Strine
Chancel Choir and Band Director	Milt Scott
Audio/Visual	Mike Reynolds & family / Dan Lynch
	Jeremy Hahn / Millikin Students: Jadon Prikl & Tobi Osibodu
Greeters	Jim Summers / Kris Sites / Pat Dalen
Check-In	Marsha Corley
Money Counters	Steve & Karen Wenger / Ken & Carol Broeking

Prayer Requests

Michelle McCord family (Her grandson, and Sydney's great grandson, Kylin Akins passed away Dec. 8.
Matt Andrews and family (Matt is Jan Andrews' son),
Jim Summers

We have recently added a **prayer request form** on our website. We invite you to check it out, and all the other content our web page has to offer. It can all be found at www.felcdccatur.org. The prayer request is under the "About" tab. Or you may let the office know of anyone to be added.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 7pm
Worship Service, December 26 at 9:30am

MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDARS FOR:
Congregation Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 23, 2022 after worship
"Dream Big" dialogue, Sunday, January 30, 2022 after worship
Your 2022 offering envelopes are available for pick-up.