

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**250 W. Decatur St.**

**Decatur, Illinois**

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*We have a livestream option on our website!*

**<https://felcdecatur.org/live>**



**February 11, 2024, at 9:30 am**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

***Come Experience God's Unlimited Grace, in a Most Welcoming Place***

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

### GATHERING

#### **\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.  
We have known you but have not always loved you.  
We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.  
Remember your covenant.  
Renew your creation.  
Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all.  
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**Amen.**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG**

*"Beautiful Savior"*

**ELW #838**

#### **GREETING**

**ELW p. 138**

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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

**Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING:**

**2 KINGS 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

<sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**

**PSALM 50:1-6**

- <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the <sup>1</sup>LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun <sup>1</sup>to its setting.  
<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect <sup>1</sup>in its beauty,**  
**God shines <sup>1</sup>forth in glory.**  
<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will <sup>1</sup>not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a <sup>1</sup>raging storm.  
<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth <sup>1</sup>from above**  
**to witness the judgment <sup>1</sup>of the people.**  
<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my <sup>1</sup>loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed <sup>1</sup>it with sacrifice.”  
<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness <sup>1</sup>of God’s cause,**  
**for it is God <sup>1</sup>who is judge.**

**SECOND READING:**

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6**

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**ELW p. 142**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL:**

**MARK 9:2-9**

*Mark’s gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus’ followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God’s glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the

cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”<sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“How Good, Lord, to Be Here”*

**ELW #315**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**ELW p. 105**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering especially Matt and family, Dean’s family, Whitley, friends & family of Tom, Dorothy’s family, Mary Ellen & Tom, Dales’s family, Debra, Jan, Barbara, Cody’s family, Doris, Braden, Sandy, Ryan’s family, Hailey, Rick, Patty & Ken, Judy, Marie, and others we name in our hearts (pause)...

Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation and ministry in the wider community. Please lead Holy Cross Lutheran Church in search of a new minister and grant it’s leadership faith, wisdom and unity throughout the process. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

### **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING**

*(We thank you for your time, talent, and money toward ministry at FELC and beyond. Please place your money donation in the offering basket at the back of church, or on-line, or by mail.)*

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

**Blessed are you, Holy One,**

**for all good things come from you.**

**In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**

**Meet us at this table,**

**that we receive what we seek**

**and follow your Son, Jesus,**

**in whose name we pray.**

**Amen.**

#### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW p. 144**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,

that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW p. 144**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 145 (right side)**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

*At each worship service FELC celebrates communion around the altar rail using non-alcoholic sacramental wine so that all present may receive God's Grace in this sacrament. If anyone is unable to come to the altar, the Pastor and assistants will bring the sacrament to you. (If possible, please alert the Pastor or Assistant prior to Worship service if you want communion at your seat). You are also welcome to pick up a disposable chalice containing wine or juice at the back of the church. If you are taking communion at the rail and feel less steady on your feet, feel free to come to the front of the communion rail rather than walking around toward the back.*

**COMMUNION**

*"Lamb of God"*

**ELW p. 146**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray,  
**Giver of every gift,**  
**Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.**  
**Raise us to life by your power**  
**for the benefit of all and to your glory,**  
**now and forever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"*

**ELW #318**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE

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## Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Terri Arnold
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	John Malachowski
Greeters	Marilyn Oftedal & Jackie Murphy
Check-In	Bob & Carol Tyler
Communion Aide	Bill Fitzgerald
Money Counters	Bob Tyler & Gary Beck
Acolyte	Emmy Murphy
Flowers	Donated by Svendsen's Florist

## Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and family, family of Dean Banfield, Whitley Blankenship, friends & family of Tom Brennan, family of Dorothy Burgener, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns, family of Dale Howard, Debra Jones, Jan Lawson, Barbara Lemen, family of Cody Miller, Doris Oliver, Braden Paulson, Sandy Pawsey, family of Ryan Snyder, Hailey Stark, Rick Strine, Patty & Ken Tague, Judy Thompson, Marie Van Cura (Pr. Rita's niece)

*If you'd like to add someone to the Prayer Request list, please contact Kay at the office.  
Prayer requests remain on the list for 3 weeks and can be extended longer at your request.*



**Welcome to all of you here and to those participating on-line**

## *Announcements*

- The AMELCA Team served 50 clients on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>
- We invite the congregation to leave a “Valentine” in the envelopes on the bulletin board for the Faith Formation youth from now through the end of February.

### **This Week:**

- The next Grief Group meeting is Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-12:30pm.
- Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have Worship Services at 12:15pm and at 6:00pm. Please see the bulletin for the full Lent schedule.
- Art Workshop is Thursday February 15 1:00pm-2:30pm.

**Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship**

## UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

### MEET, EAT & GREET (MEG)

#### Upcoming MEG Luncheons Second Thursdays at Noon

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| *Mar. 14 | *Aug 8   |
| *Apr. 11 | *Sept 12 |
| *May 9   | *Oct 10  |
| *June 6  | *Nov. 14 |
| *July 11 | *Dec. 12 |



**THE GRIEF GROUP** meets on Mondays from 11:00am-12:30pm in the lounge on the following dates:

- Feb 12, 26
- Mar 11, 25
- April 8, 22



**ART WORKSHOP CLASSES** will be in the fellowship hall from 1:00pm-2:30pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month:

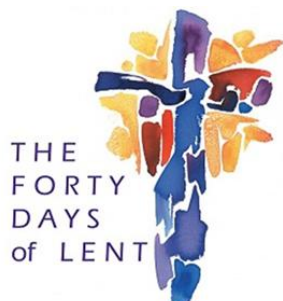
- \*February 15
- \*March 21
- \*April 18
- \*May 16

Please contact the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.

### ASH WEDNESDAY First Day of Lent



Please mark February 14, 2024 on your calendar to attend **Ash Wednesday Worship Services at 12:15pm and 6:00pm.**



- Ash Wednesday - February 14 - 12:15pm & 6:00pm
- Mid-Week Lenten Study Wednesdays 12:15pm - 1:15pm
  - February 21 & 28
  - March 6, 13 & 20
- Palm Sunday - March 24 - 9:30am
- Maundy Thursday - March 28 - 6:00pm
- Good Friday - March 29 - 6:00pm
- Easter - March 31 - 9:30am