

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Decatur, Illinois

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We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>



February 18, 2024, at 9:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION

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,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

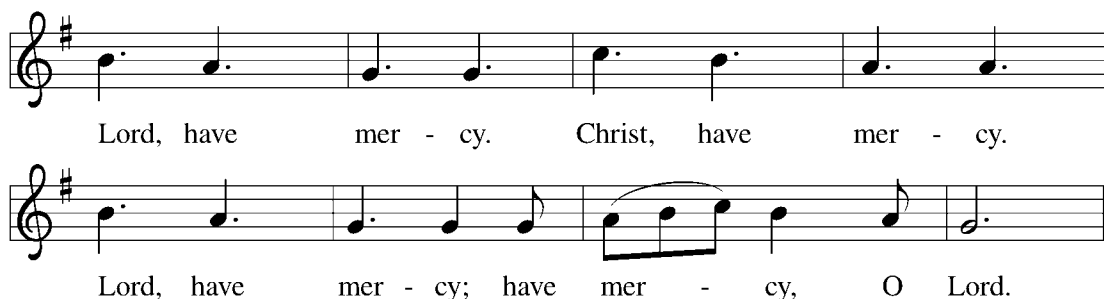
"Jesus, Still Lead On"

ELW #624

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.**



Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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:

GENESIS 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:**PSALM 25:1-10**

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
Remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O
Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

SECOND READING:**1 PETER 3:18-22**

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The proper verse may be sung by a leader. Then the acclamation is repeated.

Music: Richard Proulx, b. 1937
 Music © 1975 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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The holy gospel according to Mark the 1st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL:

MARK 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Thy Holy Wings"

ELW #613

APOSTLES CREED

ELW p. 105

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people.

Hear us, O God.

(Response: "Hear Our Prayer" ELW SM #178)



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:

peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.

God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard.

Hear us, O God. *(Response: ELW SM #178)*

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.

Hear us, O God. *(Response: ELW SM #178)*

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.

Hear us, O God. *(Response: ELW SM #178)*

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling.

Hear us, O God. *(Response: ELW SM #178)*

A: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace.

Hear us, O God. *(Response: ELW SM #178)*

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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,

**Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.**

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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, HOLY

ELW SM #193

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Per Harling, b. 1948
Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145 (right side)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

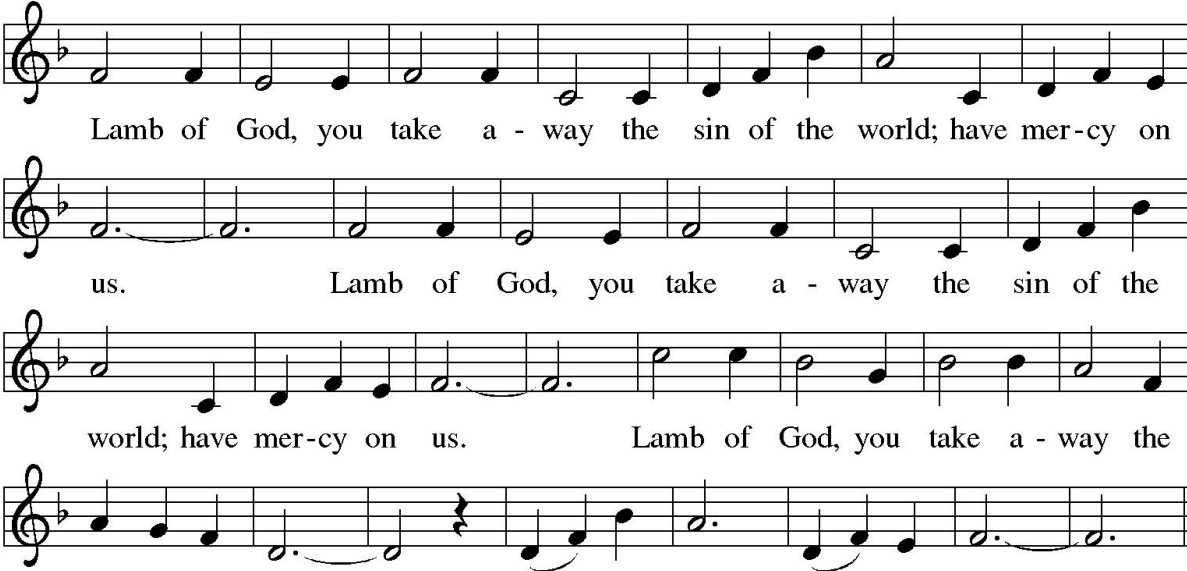
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

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 SM# 195



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,
Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

ELW #319

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Larry Osborne
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
FELC Band	Matt Philips, Laura Philips, Carla Scott, Milt Scott
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeters	Marilyn Oftedal & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Bob & Carol Tyler
Communion Aide	Jane Cade
Money Counters	Bob Tyler & Gary Beck
Acolyte	Hailey Hahn
Flowers	Donated by Svendsen's Florist

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and family, family of Dean Banfield, Whitley Blankenship, friends & family of Tom Brennan, 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, family of Jim Summers, 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

- DRUM ROLL FOR THE SOUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER the votes are in, and it was a close one, just like the real Super Bowl. 95-90 in favor of the KC Chiefs.
- Attention: For those of you that have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate, the 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31st.
- The AMELCA Team served 55 clients on Wednesday, February 14th
- And don't forget to wish Pastor Rita 'Happy Birthday' on Tuesday, 2/20.

This Week:

- Lent Study meets Wednesday, February 21st from 12:15pm-1:15pm in the Lounge.
- Jim Summers' visitation and funeral will be here at FELC on Friday, 2/23. Visitation will be 10am-11am and the funeral beginning at 11am. Burial will be at North Fork Cemetery. A luncheon at FELC will follow the burial service.

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:

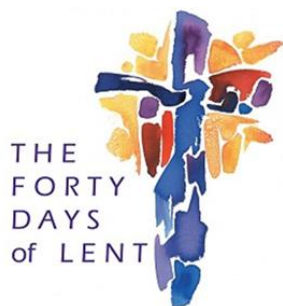
- Feb 26
- Mar 11, 25
- April 8, 22



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

- *March 21
- *April 18
- *May 16

Please contact the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.



- **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**