

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>



March 24, 2024, at 9:30 am
HOLY COMMUNION

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHER AROUND THE ALTAR IN SANCTUARY

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

P: BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!!

C: **HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!!**

Intro to Processional Gospel Mark 11:1-11

We begin today reading of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (or more accurately, Jesus' coronation as the true king). This entry is spoken of in various ways in all four of the gospels (Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-38, John 12:12-19). This was one of Jesus' last major public appearances before his crucifixion.

A bit of location context for the reading: Bethpage is a small town just east of Jerusalem. It is near Bethany, which is the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus (whom Jesus raised from the dead and in whose house, he often stayed when near Jerusalem). The Mount of Olives was between Bethany and Jerusalem.

In verse 9-10 of the reading to come, the word *Hosanna* means “*save now*” and *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord* acknowledges Jesus as the fulfillment of bringing in the messianic kingdom promised to David's son.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

P: The gospel according to Mark 11:1-11

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

C: "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: We pray to you, O Lord, bless these branches and make them holy. May we also, carrying them forth from this space and crying "Hosanna in the highest" and "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the "Lord", acclaim Jesus as our Messiah and King and follow HIM in the way that leads to eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

PROCESSION

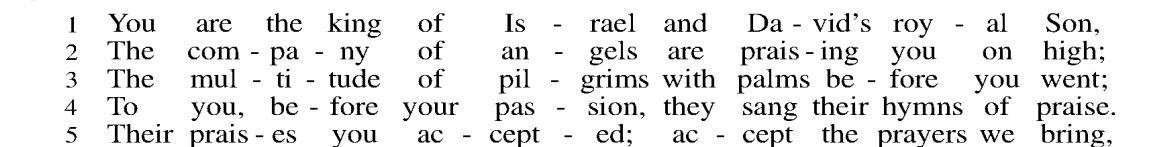
P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ELW # 344



P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Everlasting God, in your endless love for humans you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I¹ am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat¹ and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my¹ years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones¹ are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to¹ my acquaintances; when they see me in the street¹ they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten,¹ out of mind;**

I am as useless as a¹ broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is¹ all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to¹ take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in¹ you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You¹ are my God.

¹⁵My times are¹ in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who¹ persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up-¹ on your servant;**

save me in your¹ steadfast love.”

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus’ obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.”,



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.

The holy gospel according to Mark the 15th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:1-39 (Bolded lines are congregation parts)

The passion story in Mark’s gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

Narrator: ¹As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him,

Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him,

Jesus: “You say so.”

Narrator: ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

Narrator: ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then Pilate answered them,

Pilate: “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate: “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: ¹³They shouted back,

Crowd: “Crucify him!”

Narrator: ¹⁴Pilate asked them,

Pilate: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: “Crucify him!”

Narrator: ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him,

Soldiers: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrator: ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

Narrator: ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Crowd: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”

Narrator: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”

Narrator: which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders: “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”

Narrator: ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Sponge with sour wine: “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”

Narrator: ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion: “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Narrator: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

ELW #351

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

Amen.

***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: Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope.

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



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

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants.

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

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion.

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

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love.

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

A: Give energy and joy to our pastor, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel.

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

A: Blessed One, our times are in your hands. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

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

P: 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**

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;
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.

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.

*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

"There in God's Garden"

ELW #342

*DISMISSAL

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

*POSTLUDE

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 | Mike Reynolds |
| Acolyte | Leighton Oliver |
| Greeters | Mike & Karen Reynolds |
| Check-In | Bob & Judy Carney |
| Communion Aide | Jane Cade |
| Money Counters | The Wengers & The Broekings |
| Flowers | Molly Berry in Honor of Gemma's Birthday |

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & family, Whitley Blankenship, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns,
Jan Lawson, Sandy Pawsey, Rick Strine, friends & family of Jim Summers,
Patty & Ken Tague, 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 65 clients on Wednesday, March 20th.
- Easter is next Sunday, March 31st.
- “*The Red Sea Rules*” book study will begin April 15 from 6:30-7:30pm in person at FELC. Read the introduction & Chapters 1-3 prior to meeting. We have room for a few more people so please join us. Put your name on the list and grab a book!
- After worship, please turn your chair to face the front main altar.

This Week:

- The Grief Group meets Monday, March 25th from 11am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
- Maundy Thursday Worship Service is at 6:00pm. Appetizers at 6:00pm and communion service to follow in the fellowship hall.
- Good Friday Worship Service is at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.
- The Church Office is Closed on Friday, March 29th.

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

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| *Apr. 11 | *Sept 12 |
| *May 9 | *Oct 10 |
| *June 13 | *Nov. 14 |
| *July 11 | *Dec. 12 |
| *Aug. 8 | |



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

- Mar 25
- April 8, 22



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

- April 18
- May 16

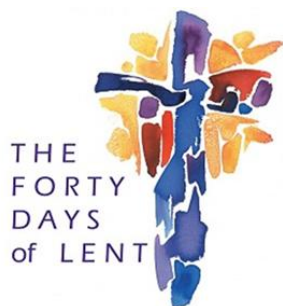
Summer Schedule:

- June 20
- July 18
- Aug 15

Fall Schedule:

- Sept 19
- Oct 17
- Nov 21

Please contact the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Maundy Thursday - March 28 - 6:00pm
- Good Friday - March 29 - 6:00pm
- Easter Sunday - March 31 - 9:30am

Palm Sunday Word Find

Palm

Mark

Luke

Crowd

Glory

Jesus

Leaves

Savior

Easter

Blessed

Worship

Sunday



U B J I D M O P Y A D N U S G
Q Q P Q X I N Y U G F E L J L
L U K E S A V I O R X H N O O
E J Y J U V Q S O T S K P Z R
W T N N J B Z D W O R C R O Y
O N J O S I O P E N L W U A L
R Z K I J E F I A S U S E J M
S T J F E H V M S L S P B B L
H H B R E O A A T H M E J R N
I R G F D M K S E B R J L R U
P M Q V M R J I R L J V S B P
U K F T C Y C P U C P U B A T