

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*We have a livestream option on our website!
<https://felcdecatur.org/live>*



**August 3, 2025, at 9:30 am
8th Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

ELW #393

GREETING

ELW p. 138

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

C: **And also, with you.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“This Is the Feast”

ELW p. 122-123

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: **Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under

the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 49:1-12

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
² **you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**
³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**
⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**
⁷ One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
⁹ in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.
¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**
¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.
¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 142

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 12th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the “rich will be sent away empty.” Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

ELW # 655

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p. 105

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

A: Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING SONG

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

ELW #721

(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 at <https://felcdecatur.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

**C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection
With earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels,
cherubim, and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 130

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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. 135

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Mothering God,

**C: you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P: In the name of God:

**We send you forth with Word and Sacrament to our homebound,
that they may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread,
one cup in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING***BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW #650

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Dave Bachmann,
Peg Books, Brandon Ellison, Esther Gregory, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson,
Family of Jean Nihiser, Jarrod Renfro, Pastor Barbara Stroud-Borth,
Dennis Tangney, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine, Rudy Zucker Sr.

*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.*

Participants

Presiding and Preaching
Assisting Minister
Slides
Organist/Bell Choir Director
Interim Choir Director
Technical Director
Audio/Visual
Bell Ringer
Greeter
Check-In
Acolyte
Communion Aide
Money Counters
Flowers

SAM, Claire Vail
Bill Fitzgerald
Carol & Ken Broeking
Rick Strine
Milt Scott
Mason Oliver
Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Steve Wenger
Bruce & Tami Cannon
Mary Jo Rowley & Carol Tyler
Gemma Berry
John Malachowski
Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Mary Jo & Jay Rowley

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

Announcements

- **Welcome to SAM, Claire Vail** who is preaching and presiding this morning. Claire will serve as our Interim Minister beginning September 1st. Please introduce yourself & welcome her to our church family.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, August 4th at 11:00am – 12:30pm in the Lounge.
- **Mutual Ministry** is on the church calendar to meet on Tuesday, however, I don't think this group is meeting. If you are a part of the Mutual Ministry group, please confirm with Kris Sites.
- **Name Badges** have been made for all names on the check-in sheet. Please pick up your name badge when you check-in. We're asking everyone to wear a name badge each Sunday for the next few months. Please do not take your name badge home; drop it off at the check-in table as you leave.
- **The AMELCA** team served 106 clients on Wednesday, July 30th. Last week, the AMELCA team served 102 clients. Please keep AMELCA and their clients in your prayers; food insecurity is on the rise.
- **New Book Study** is scheduled to begin September 15th at 12:15pm in the Lounge. The book we will be reading is "*The Mary We Forgot*" by Jennifer Powell McNutt. Please email (felc_decatur@outlook.com) or call (217-423-7783) the church office if you would like to attend or want a copy of the book. Kay needs a count to know how many books to order. Thank you!

- **August 31st is our next Joint Worship Service** with Holy Cross, held here at FELC. Pastor Amy Zietlow and Deacon Jason Fisher will be preaching & presiding. And we will have SonRise Café after worship.
- **PawPrint Ministries** is hosting a campaign fundraiser. Each year, the teams raise money to support our continued work in the community. Apollo & Janice Isaacs have posted information & envelopes on the big Faith Formation bulletin board by the classrooms. There are many ways to donate:
 - Cash
 - Check (PawPrint Ministries, 2555 E. Federal Drive, Decatur IL 62526)
 - Venmo/PayPal @PawPrintMinistries
 - Website: [www.pawprintministries.org]

Please designate your donation for “**Team Apollo**” when you donate. Thank you for your support of this Ministry.

- **Son Rise Café** needs hosts & hostesses! Nothing elaborate is required – just the desire to extend a little fellowship. Some suggestions have been fruit, or cheese & crackers, baked goods, etc. There’s a new signup sheet on the bulletin board, so I hope you feel ‘nudged’ to sponsor a Sunday. Thank you for your contribution!
- We still have dates available for anyone that would want to sponsor **Altar Flowers** on a Sunday. The flower chart is hanging on the bulletin board.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship