

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



**August 24, 2025, at 9:30 am  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## INTRODUCTION

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Blessed Be Your Name"*

**Matt Redman/Beth Redman**

## 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.**

**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: **O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14**

*God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,

from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;  
<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 103:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.  
<sup>2</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**  
<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup> **who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**  
<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup> **O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**  
<sup>7</sup> You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup> **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29**

*Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup> But

you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.”

<sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.*

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.  
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Drawn to the Light”*

**ELW #593**

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and He will come 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: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

A: You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**



A: You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

### **MEAL**

### **OFFERING SONG**

*"Give Thanks"*

*(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.

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 145**

## **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”  
“Behold The Lamb”  
“One Bread, One Body”*

**ELW p. 135  
Getty/Townend  
ELW #496**

## **\*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.

## **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.

**\*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, Galen Arnold,  
Dave Bachmann, Peg Books, Brandon Ellison,  
Esther Gregory, Kevin Gregory, James Jackson, Paul Kopetz,  
Jan Lawson, John Margias, Jarrod Renfro, Pastor Barbara Stroud-Borth,  
Dennis Tangney, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine,  
Joyce Sweazy, Renee Wiedenkiller, 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.*

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

## Announcements

- **Thank you Marty & Janice** for preaching and presiding this morning. We will have Son Rise Café after worship service this morning. Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome!!
- **The AMELCA team served 112 clients** on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **August 31<sup>st</sup> 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 have Son Rise Café after worship. All are welcome!
- **Bells & Choir** practice begins on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bells begin at 6:15pm and Choir begins at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please come and join our friendly groups. The first Sunday choir will sing is September 7<sup>th</sup>. Bell & Choir practice are scheduled for all four Wednesdays in September; 9/3, 9/10, 9/17 & 9/24.
- Council will be sponsoring a **"Welcome Minister Claire" Son Rise** on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for fellowship as we welcome Minister Claire into our First Family.
- **During Son Rise Café** on September 7<sup>th</sup>, Council will present the options of a **new sign** to replace the sign at the corner of Church and Decatur Street. After the presentation, the congregation will be asked to vote. Contact Larry Osborne with questions.
- **Youth Faith Formation begins Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Ms. Abbey will be conducting the younger group's first lesson class. That same day the older group will be having their first Music class with Mr. Rick. On the 21st, Ms. Molly will be having our first craft/bulletin board session. On the 28th Ms. Kris will be having our first lesson class with the older group while the younger group will be having their first Music class with Mr. Rick. Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa, please mark your calendars and bring your children so they can join in on the fun. Faith Formation's full calendar will be in the September FLAME.

- **New Book Study** is scheduled to begin September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in the Lounge. The book we will be reading is “*The Mary We Forgot*” by Jennifer Powell McNutt. Please email ([felc\\_decaturn@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decaturn@outlook.com)) or call (217-423-7783) the church office if you would like to attend or want a copy of the book. The books have arrived, so if you have signed up, please stop by the office to pick up your copy. Thank you!
- Church Council has approved for an **Alcoholics Anonymous group** to meet here at FELC in the Fellowship Hall. This group is a 12-step discussion group called “Back to Basics”. They meet daily but I don’t have a start date for the group yet. More details to follow.

## Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship

### Participants

Presiding and Preaching	SAMs, Janice Isaacs & Martin Brilley
Assisting Minister	Molly Berry
Slides	Jim Oettel
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Guest Organist	Steve Wenger
Music Ensemble	Milton Scott (Director), Carla Scott, Laura Philips, Matt Philips, Marty Brilley, Molly Berry, Steve Wenger
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	John & Lin Malachowski
Check-In	Mary Jo Rowley & Carol Tyler
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Susan Peters
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Son Rise Café	Nancy Salefski