

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



About that
day and hour
no one
knows

MATTHEW 24:36

**November 30, 2025, at 9:30 am
First Sunday of Advent
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

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

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

***GATHERING SONG** *“Hark! A thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”* **ELW #246**

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

***KYRIE** **ELW p. 98-99**

THE ADVENT WREATH First Sunday of Advent

Hymn during wreath lighting *“He Came Down”*
(Congregation will sing 1 stanza of hymn)
He came down that we may have hope;*(sing 3 times); hallelujah forevermore*
He came down that we may have light;*(sing 3 times); hallelujah forevermore*

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
 You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
 You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
 Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
 We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
 you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they [|] said to me,
"Let us go to the house [|] of the LORD."

² **Now our [|] feet are standing
within your gates, [|] O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built [|] as a city
that is at unity [|] with itself;

- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**
- ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 102

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 24th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they

knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“The King Shall Come”

ELW #260

***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: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW #715

(Refrain/St. 1/ Refrain)

(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: Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come. 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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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 p. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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. 112-113

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!"

ELW #244

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books,
Family & Friends of Kandy Donahue, Sandy Fitzgerald,
Esther Gregory, Charlotte Hubbard, Paul Kopetz,
Jan Lawson, John Margias, Carla Scott, 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	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Isaac Ford
Slides	Jim Oettel
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	Karen & Mike Reynolds
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Kris Sites
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney and Mike Corley
Flowers	The Rowley's, Giving Thanks

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

Announcements

- The **Cookies in a Jar fundraiser for AMELCA** will begin this Sunday, November 30th. The cost for a jar will be \$15. We are hoping to have 3 types of cookies available this year.
- **Grief Group** meets in the Lounge on Monday, December 1st at 11:00am.
- **Dove Giving Tuesday & Open House** will be in our Fellowship Hall from 3:00pm-7:00pm on Tuesday, December 2nd.

- **Personnel Committee** meets Wednesday, December 3rd at 3:30pm in the Lounge.
- Holy Cross is planning to have an **evening meal at 5:30pm and mid-week Advent services at 6:15pm on Thursdays** 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18. All are invited.
- Over the Advent season we will be **collecting items for Dove clients**. Look for a collection box near the baptism font. Please bring personal care items (soap, lotion, shampoo, hair oil...) specifically for African American needs, and feminine care items.
- Jane Cade will put out boxes for **Baby Jesus donations today**. Infant clothing, onesies, receiving blankets, diapers, etc. will be collected thru 12/21.
- **Cookie Bakers and Carolers:** Sunday December 14th is the date for cookie delivery and caroling to our Homebound. Cookies will be packaged on that Sunday @ 9:00 AM. Bring your homemade cookies marked, "For Homebound", to the kitchen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 9:00 to 4:00 during the **week of December 8th**, or no later than 9:00 on Sunday December 14th. Carolers will meet at the church at 12:30 PM and then travel to the Homebound to carol. All singers and non-singers are welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those interested in joining the carolers.
- **Youth Christmas Pageant** will be Sunday, December 14th. Practice is 12/7 & 12/13.
- **Toys for Tots collection boxes** will be in the Narthex and by the lower door during November. WAND-TV will be hosting their "Day of Giving" on December 5th. First Lutheran will be collecting unwrapped, new toys to be distributed to Decatur children.
- **Poinsettia forms** are on red paper in the Narthex. Please leave your completed form in the church office by December 14th and Poinsettia plants must be delivered to church by 10:00am, Monday, December 22nd. Thank you!
- Annual Reports are **due in the office no later than December 7th**. Please email your report to the church office email, felc_decatur@outlook.com. Thank you!
- **Please take an Advent Calendar located on the hallway table by the front door.** This cute Advent Calendar is from the ELCA. They are sent free to ELCA churches, so please take one to share with your family &/or friends. There are 3 pieces to each set; the readings numbered 1-24, the stable, and the cutouts. Each day gives instructions what to cut out & color. Please share with family & friends.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship