

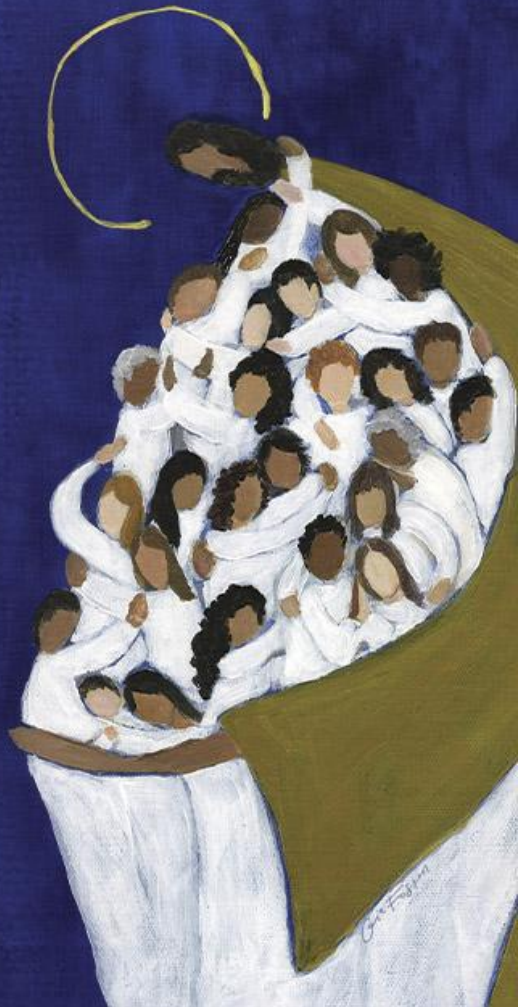
**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 W. Decatur St.
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783**

**Website: www.felcdecatur.org
Email: felc_decatur@outlook.com**

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

**Because
I live,
you also
will live**

JOHN 14:19



**May 10, 2026, at 9:30am
Sixth Sunday of Easter
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"The Morning Psalm"

John Ylvisaker
Milt Scott - Soloist

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.
C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** *“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”*

ELW #863

- 1 My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat
in depths of burning light!**
- 2 How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of thee must be--
thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
and awesome purity!**
- 3 No earthly father loves like thee;
no mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.**
- 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.**
- 5 My God, how wonderful thou art,
thou everlasting friend!
On thee I stay my trusting heart
till faith in vision end.**

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. 140-141

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: **Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SOLO

“Faith of Our Mothers”

**John Ylvisaker
Milt Scott - Soloist**

WORD

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our

being'; as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows**

¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ 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, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who 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 lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And 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, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 142

P: The holy gospel according to John the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Come Gracious Spirt, Heavenly Dove”*

ELW #404

- 1 **Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly dove,
with light and comfort from above.
Come, be our guardian and our guide;
o'er ev'ry thought and step preside.**

- 2 **The light of truth to us display
and make us know and choose your way;
plant holy fear in ev'ry heart,
that we from God may ne'er depart.**

- 3 **Lead us to Christ, the living way,
nor let us from his pastures stray.
Lead us in holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.**

- 4 **Lead us to heav'n, that we may share
fullness of joy forever there;
lead us to our eternal rest,
to be with God forever blest.**

Text: Simon Browne, 1680-1732, alt.

***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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence

A: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. We pray especially for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. Send wisdom to our leaders that they may strive for peace and justice in all the world. Guard and protect those serving in the armed forces. Comfort the families who have lost loved ones in conflict. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“We Come as Guests Invited”

Hunnicut

(We thank you for your time, talent, and treasure toward ministry at FELC and beyond. Please place your donation in the offering basket at the back of church, or on-line at <https://felcdecatur.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God,

C: accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day

when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus. 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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin,
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.

C: Your mercy endures forever.

P: By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.

C: Your mercy endures forever.

P: By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.

C: Your mercy endures forever.

P: By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C:

ELW p. 145



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

C:

ELW p. 145



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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). 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.

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.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Holy One,

C: through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**SENDING*****BLESSING**

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!**
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!**
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!**
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!**

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Text © John B. Geyer

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!!

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer Requests

Barb Ahlenius, Matt Andrews & Family, Tom Bilyeu, Leon Bolin, Peg Books,
Jeanie Dennis, Darlene Ducharme, Bill Fitzgerrel, Dennis Gregory, Esther Gregory,
Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, RuthAnn & Don Ruby, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood,
Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine, Mary Wolf, 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	Karen Wenger
Slides	Bill Fitzgerald
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	Mike & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Susan Martin & Marsha Corley
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	
Money Counters	Jim & Judy Oettel and Carolyn & Gary Likins
SonRise Café	Karen & Mike Reynolds
Flowers	Kris & Dick Sites to Honor all Moms
Indoor Plant Watering	Carolyn Likins

Announcements

- A message from the Call Committee
We thank all the members of FELC for the unanimous vote to call Pastor Sarah Cordray to be our next pastor. We feel that Pastor Sarah will help us grow in spirit, in mission and in service. Time will go by quickly and soon (before we realize it) Pr. Sarah will become a part of our family. We continue to ask for your prayers as we assist Pr. Sarah and family as they relocate to Decatur. We can all benefit from the words of the Gospel of John in Chapter 14, verse 1: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. We look forward to Pr. Sarah's arrival in Decatur and her installation as our pastor.
- **Exec meets** on Monday, May 11th at 6:00pm
- **Foundation Board** meets Tuesday, May 12th via zoom.
- **Meet, Eat, and Greet** lunch is Thursday, May 14th in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Finance Committee** meets Thursday, May 14th at 4:00pm via zoom.
- **Meals on Wheels** volunteers are needed to deliver meals Tuesday, May 26th – Friday, May 29th. Please contact Judy Carney by May 18th if you are available to participate with delivering meals; below is Judy's contact information:
 - Home#: 217-429-0547
 - Cell#: 217-454-3901
 - Email: jcarney329@comcast.net
- The **AMELCA TEAM** served 97 clients on Wednesday, May 6th.

- **Kay is on vacation** May 14th – May 18th, returning Wednesday, May 20th. The **church office will be closed on Friday, May 15th**. Quilters will need to use their keys for entrance to the building on Thursday, May 14th.
- Scouts BSA Troop #475, sponsored by Holy Cross, is **honoring Military loved ones** again this year. **Memorial Day Flags** will be displayed on the lawn at Holy Cross Lutheran Church over Memorial Day Weekend. Forms are on the table in the narthex.
- **Council has approved for another AA group** to meet at FELC. This second AA group will meet once a week on Thursdays at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our first AA group will continue to meet 7 days a week in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Pastor Sarah** is expected to begin at FELC on August 17th. Her Installation is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th.

Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- We will **not** have Joint Worship Service on May 31st, the fifth Sunday in May
- **June 6th is C/SIS Synod Assembly** from 9:00am – 3:00pm via on-line meeting. Voting members can gather together or separately, depending on what your group has decided. HC voting members will meet at HC for the day.
- **July 12th will be Joint Worship Service and Outdoor BBQ/picnic at Holy Cross**
- **Vacation Bible School will be August 3rd – 7th** from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Holy Cross. It is a little different this year having VBS in the evening, but we are hoping to secure a few more volunteers within that timeframe.
- **August 30th will be Joint Worship Service at FELC**
- September 13th is typically the Sunday to celebrate **“God’s Work our Hands”**. A specific date has not been determined, but an event will likely be organized around that timeframe.
- **September 19th is the WELCA Fall Gathering** held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Decatur. Last year the event was in Champaign and we had 90 women attend the event; several from FELC and HC attended. With the event being held in Decatur, we hope to see more FELC & HC attendees. The WELCA group will send out additional information this summer.
- **October 4th is the East Central Conference ‘Synod Day’**. This is a follow-up to our June 6th C/SIS Synod Assembly. Our C/SIS Synod Office will have a variety of events. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- **October 31st ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.