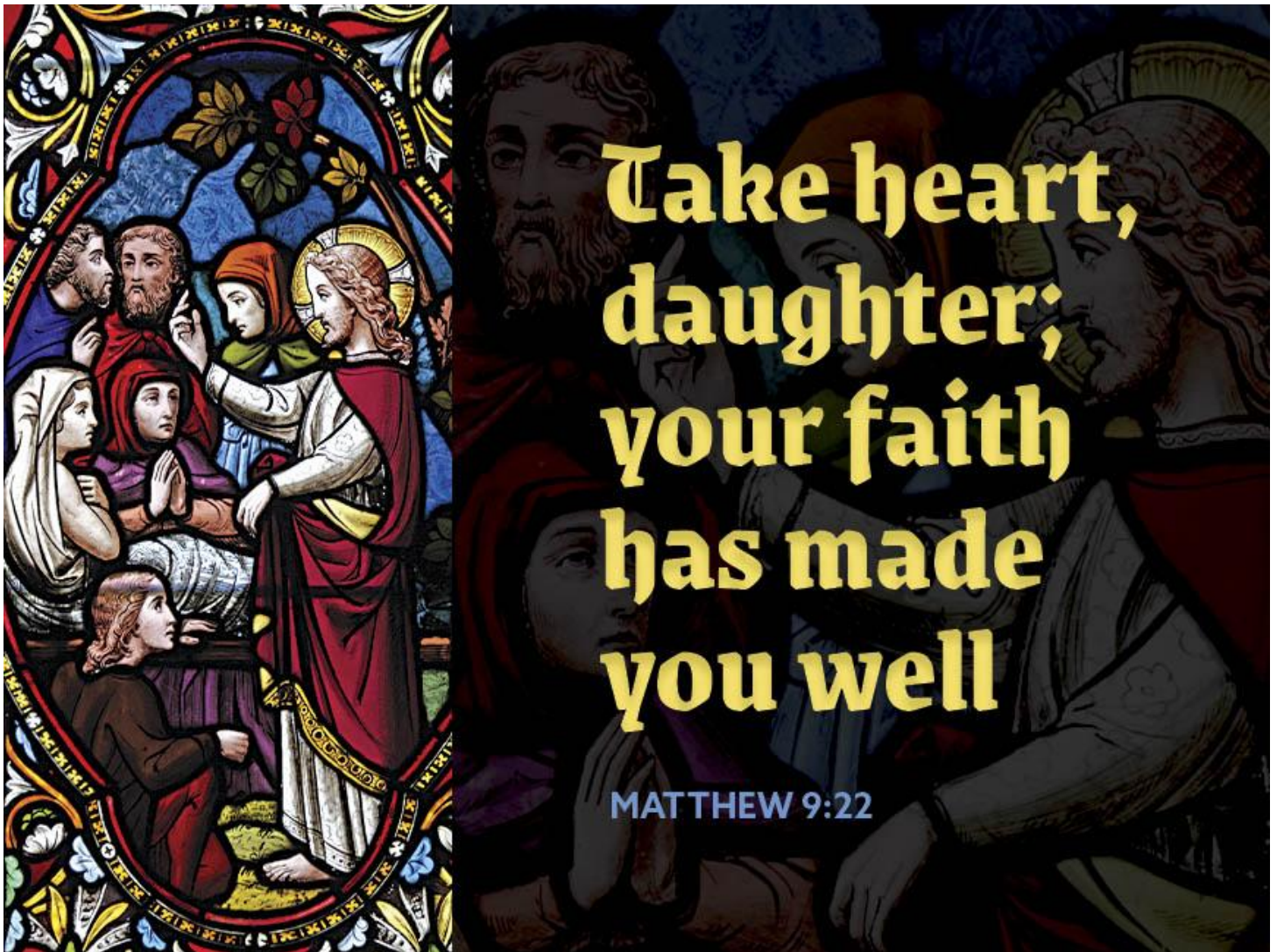


**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 W. Decatur St.  
Decatur, Illinois  
(217) 423-7783**

**Website: [www.felcdecatur.org](http://www.felcdecatur.org)  
Email: [felc\\_decatur@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decatur@outlook.com)**

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



**June 7, 2026, at 9:30am  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.*

## **WELCOME**

## **PRELUDE**

## **GATHERING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ’s name we pray,**

**Amen.**

P: Jesus says, “Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

**C: Amen.**

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
  
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
  
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**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.

**KYRIE**

**ELW p. 138-139**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“Glory to God”*

**ELW p. 139-140**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray,

**C:** O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## WORD

### **First Reading: Hosea 5:15—6:6**

*Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.*

<sup>15</sup> I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD,  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup> Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

<sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

<sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 50:7-15

<sup>7</sup> “Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup> **I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

<sup>9</sup> I will not accept a calf from your stalls,  
nor goats from your pens;

<sup>10</sup> **for all the wild animals of the forest are mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup> I know every bird of the mountains,  
and the creatures of the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup> **If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

<sup>13</sup> Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup> **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

<sup>15</sup> Call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

## Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

*Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.*

<sup>13</sup> The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”, in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead

for, and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*"Alléluia"*

**ELW p. 142**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 9th Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

*Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.*

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread through all of that district.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

**ELW #588**

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
  
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**
  
- 3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.**

**4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, 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: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of creation, all you have made is yours. Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found. We pray 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. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness. May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

## MEAL

### **OFFERING**

*(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://felcdecatour.org/give>, or by mail.)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,

**C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

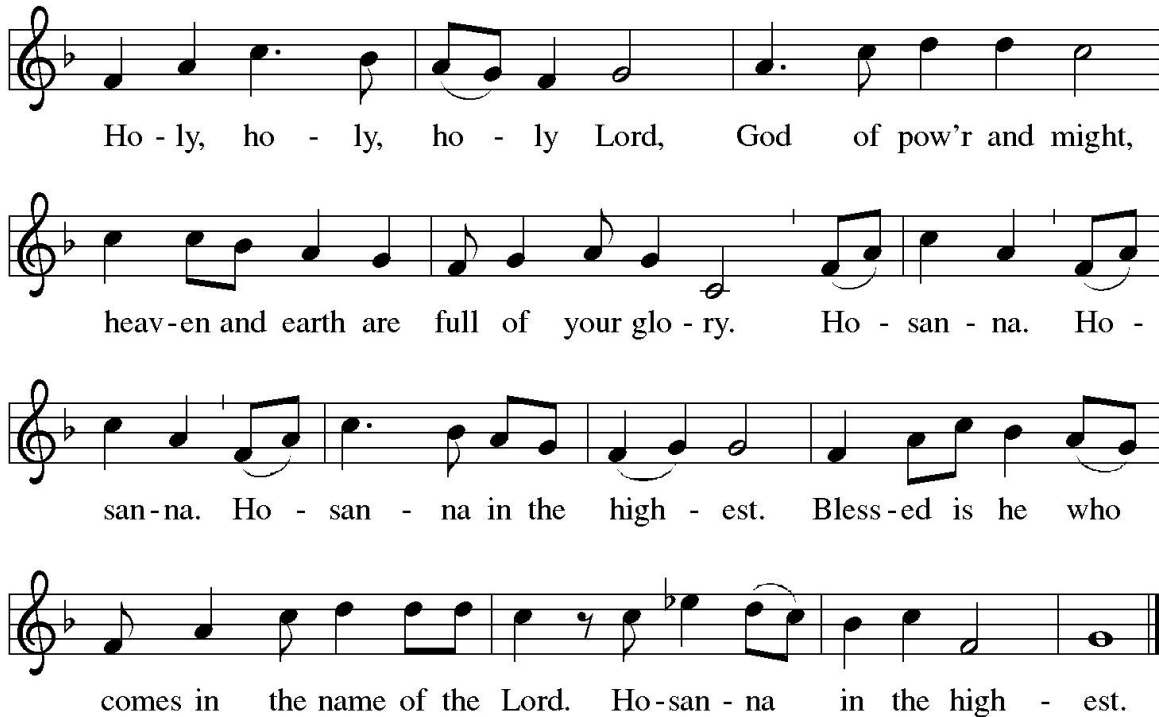
P: Lift up your hearts.

**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 ev'ry 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,  
with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*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.*

## COMMUNION

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 146

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: Compassionate God,

**C: through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

## **\*EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P: In the name of God:

**C: 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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING**

#### **\*BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.

**C: Amen.**

#### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"*

**ELW #860**

- 1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

Text: African American spiritual

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Liturgy from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All Rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Lectionary - Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.  
Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce copies for local use only and this copyright notice appears.

All reprints used by permission© John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly, IA 50677  
CCLI License # 2368672 | One License #A-734658

## Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Isaac Ford
Slides	Bill Fitzgerrel
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	John Malachowski
Greeter	Tami & Bruce Cannon
Check-In	Bob & Carol Tyler
Acolyte	Ella Taute
Communion Aide	Kris Sites
Money Counters	Karen & Steve Wenger and Carol & Ken Broeking
Flowers	Terry & Christina Shields Celebrating their 49 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Indoor Plant Watering	Nora Beck

# Prayer Requests

Barb Ahlenius, Matt Andrews & Family, Tom Bilyeu, Leon Bolin, Peg Books, Mary Broomfield, Don David Collins, Jeanie Dennis, Bill Fitzgerald, Esther Gregory, Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, Marilyn Oftedal, RuthAnn & Don Ruby, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood, 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*

# Announcements

- Today is **FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY**. Please bring a non-perishable food item or make a monetary donation for AMELCA.
- **The AMELCA Team** served 72 clients on Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Book Study** meets Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in the Lounge.
- **Organ Tuning** will take place Monday afternoon beginning at 1:30pm.
- **Exec** meets Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm via Zoom.
- **Meet, Eat, & Greet** luncheon is Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **FELC Finance Committee** meets Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm via Zoom.
- **Terry Shield's book *The Purpose of Everything – God's Promises to God's People*** (volume 2) is available for discounted purchase through FELC. Retail price for Paperback is \$47.49 and Hardcover is \$63.49. FELC is giving you a \$10 discount per book so your cost would be \$37.49 for Paperback and \$53.49 for Hardcover. Forms to order the book are in the Narthex. Please leave your completed form and check (payable to FELC) in the church office by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **AA Love's Home Group** meets Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **AA Back to Basics** meets 7 days a week in the Fellowship Hall.
- **The Church Office is closed on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>** in celebration of Juneteenth.
- **Pastor Sarah Cordray** is expected to begin at FELC the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Her first day in the office will be Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Her Installation is scheduled for Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- **July 12<sup>th</sup> will be Joint Worship Service and picnic at Holy Cross.** Grilled Brats & Hot Dogs will be served. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Sign-up sheets will be available shortly. In addition to worship and food, there will be games (with prizes) as well as a service project.
- **Vacation Bible School will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 30<sup>th</sup> will be Joint Worship Service at FELC**
- September 13<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> is the East Central Conference ‘Synod Day’**. This is a follow-up to our June 6<sup>th</sup> C/SIS Synod Assembly. Our C/SIS Synod Office will have a variety of events. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.