

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

*You are of  
more value  
than many  
sparrows*

**MATTHEW 10:31**



**June 21, 2026, at 9:30am  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in 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 Let the whole creation cry,  
"Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,  
"Praise to our almighty king!"  
Praise God, angel hosts above,  
ever bright and fair in love;  
sun and moon, lift up your voice;  
night and stars, in God rejoice.**
  
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,  
prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong  
add their voices to the song.  
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,  
to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait,  
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**
  
- 3 Men and women, young and old,  
raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts  
in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole  
let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;  
glory be to God alone!"**

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

**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: Teach us to serve you faithfully and wisely, to give generously to those in need, to work for what is good, to labor with compassion, and also receive the rest you provide, and to trust that our worth is not measured by what we accomplish. May we find joy and doing your will, knowing that you call us both to serve and to be renewed through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **WORD**

#### **First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

<sup>7</sup> O Lord, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the Lord has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup> But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the Lord;  
praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 69:7-18**

<sup>7</sup> Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup> **I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>11</sup> I put on sackcloth also,  
and became a byword among them.

<sup>12</sup> **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:  
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

<sup>14</sup> **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

<sup>15</sup> Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;  
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

- <sup>16</sup> **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**
- <sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- <sup>18</sup> **Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.**

**Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10th Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

Jesus said to the twelve: <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign

those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

**ELW #798**

**1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"**

- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"**
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"**
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"**
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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## **\*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:** Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. 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: Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. 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://felcdecatur.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:

## 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, 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.****ANNOUNCEMENTS****SENDING****\*BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.**C: Amen.****\*SENDING HYMN***“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

ELW #810

**1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
 remain forever near me, my master and my friend.**

- I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

### **\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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## *Prayer Requests*

Barb Ahlenius, Matt Andrews & Family, Tom Bilyeu, Leon Bolin,  
Peg Books, Mary Broomfield, Don David Collins, Jeanie Dennis,  
Bill Fitzgerrel, 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*

## Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Janice Isaacs
Slides	Romine Family
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bill Fitzgerrel
Greeter	Jeff Kopetz
Check-In	Bob & Carol Tyler
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	
Money Counters	Karen & Steve Wenger and Carol & Ken Broeking
Indoor Plant Watering	Nora Beck

## Announcements

- **The AMELCA Team** served 78 clients on a very stormy Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Kay Wolken** is working a half day Monday morning on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The office will be closed Monday afternoon.
- **Book Study** meets Monday, June 22 at 12:15pm in the Lounge.
- **Minister Claire** is out of the office beginning June 23<sup>rd</sup>, returning on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Hailey Hahn, our office assistant**, is out of the office at church camp beginning June 21<sup>st</sup>, returning to work the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **We are collecting donations for our service project at our Joint Worship on July 12<sup>th</sup>.** Envelopes are in your bulletin. Please see below for additional details.
- **Terry Shield's book *The Purpose of Everything – God's Promises to God's People*** (vol 2) is available for discounted purchase through FELC. And **GOOD NEWS**, the publisher has **reduced the retail price** of Terry's books!! FELC will still discount \$10 for any book ordered via the church. Updated order forms are on the table by the front door. Your cost would be \$24.99 for Paperback and \$37.99 for Hardcover. 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 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **AA Back to Basics** meets 7 days a week in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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

- **Join us on July 12<sup>th</sup> for our Joint Worship Service and picnic at Holy Cross.** Grilled Brats & Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The meal will be served indoors in the fellowship hall. In addition to worship and food, there will be games (with prizes) and a service project for all ages to enjoy. Envelopes for contributions toward supplies for the service project are in your Sunday bulletin. Weather permitting, worship and games will be held outdoors, so please bring a lawn chair. Please note that some of the children's games may include water activities. We look forward to a wonderful day of worship, fellowship, service, and fun!!
- **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Explore Team meeting** at Holy Cross at 5:30pm.
- **Vacation Bible School will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Holy Cross. The theme is Rainforest Falls. VBS in the evening is a little different this year because we are hoping to secure a few more volunteers.
- **August 30<sup>th</sup> will be Joint Worship Service at FELC.** We will schedule a service project for “**God’s Work our Hands**”.
- **September 13<sup>th</sup> is Pastor Sarah Cordray’s installation.** Bishop Greg Busboom will join us and Holy Cross is invited to join in with the celebration.
- **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’.** It will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 313 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign from 2:00pm-7:00pm. 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 including Cross-generational worship, Activities for children & families, Shared meal, State of the synod video, Q&A with the synod staff, Mission moments from each conference, & Four “Spirit Labs” workshop options.
- **Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.