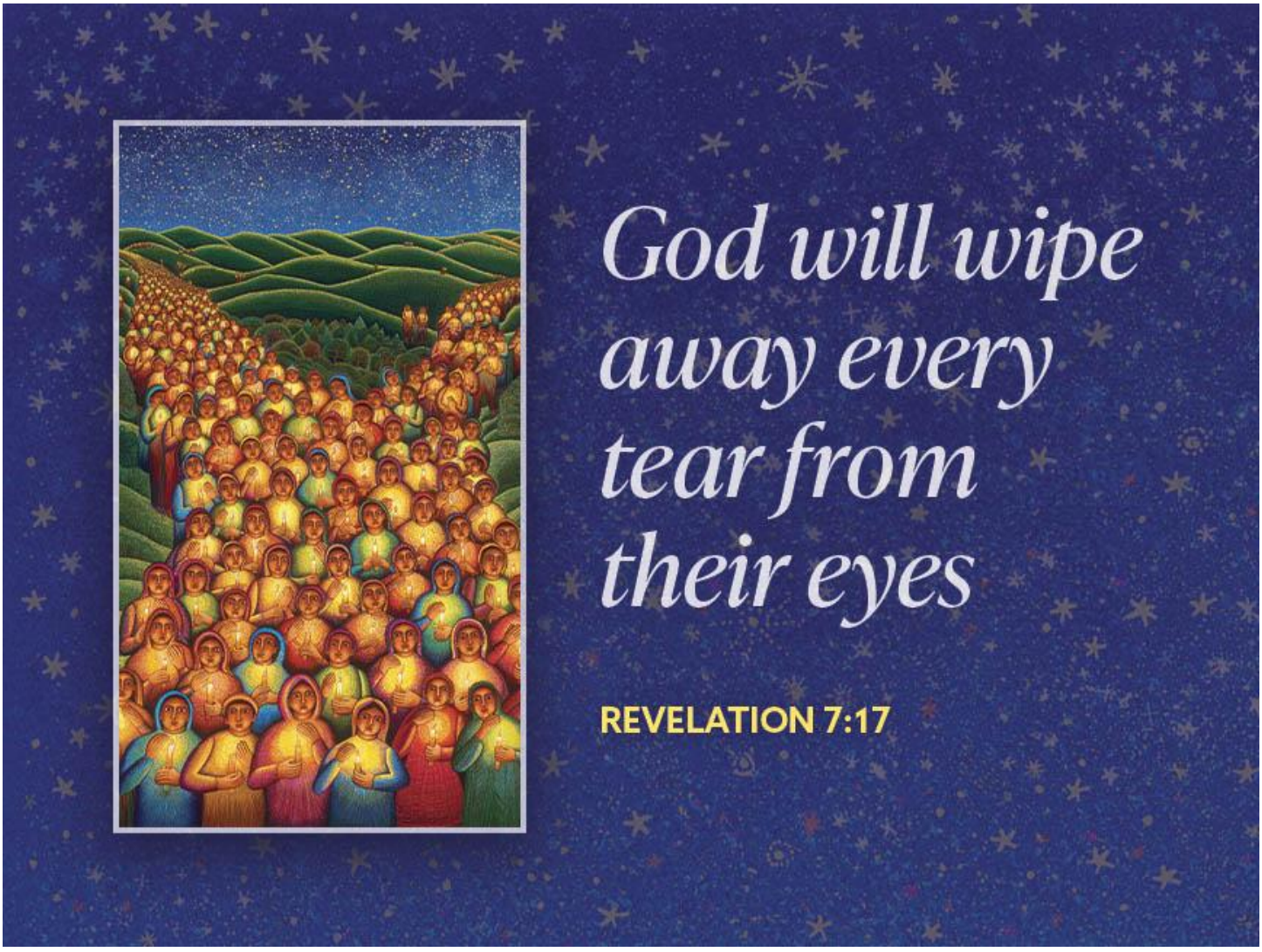
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 W. Decatur St.
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783
Website: www.felcdecatur.org
Email: felc_decatur@outlook.com

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



November 1, 2026, at 9:30am
HOLY COMMUNION
All Saints Day

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

INTRODUCTION
Today, we remember the saints who have gone before us through God's promises brought to fullness through Jesus Christ. We also remember that we are saints through God's forgiveness and grace given daily . We are as Martin Luther names simultaneously sinner and saint, and this reality is what we must live as well trusting that the sainthood given through Jesus will be what shines the light of Christ for others. God uses you to bring the blessedness—the light of Christ—into the world so that others may receive a foretaste of the feast to come as their mourning is comforted, their hunger is fed, and as their parched lives have received the water of life.

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

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

P: Holy God,
C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** *"For All the Saints"* **ELW #422**

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

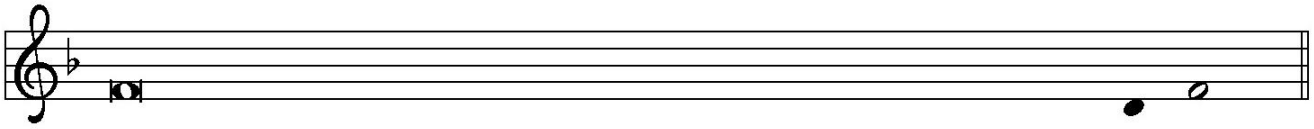
GREETING **ELW p. 138**

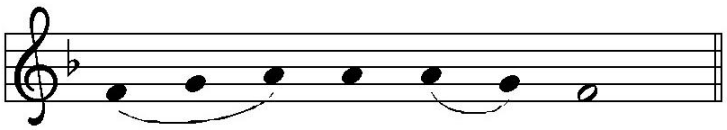
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

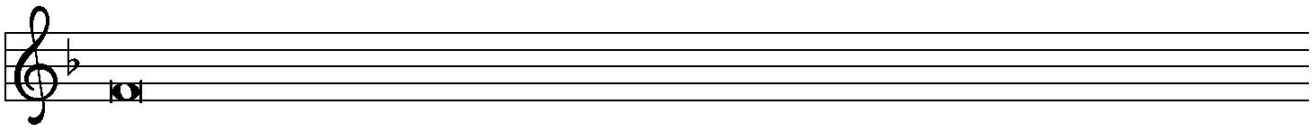
C: And also, with you.

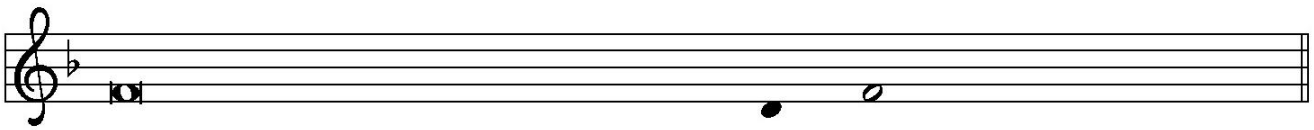
***KYRIE** **ELW p. 138-139**



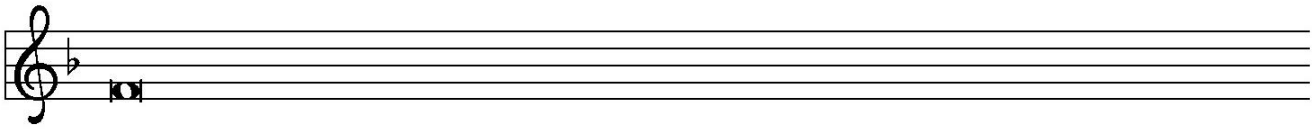


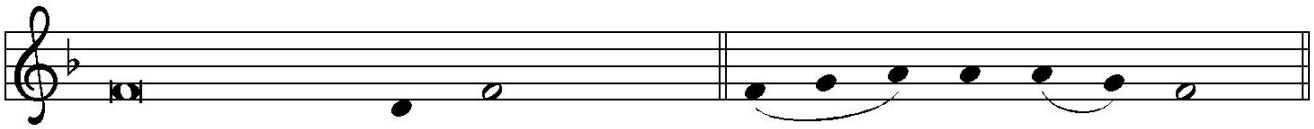


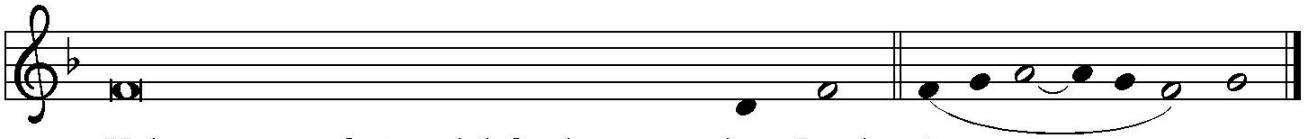






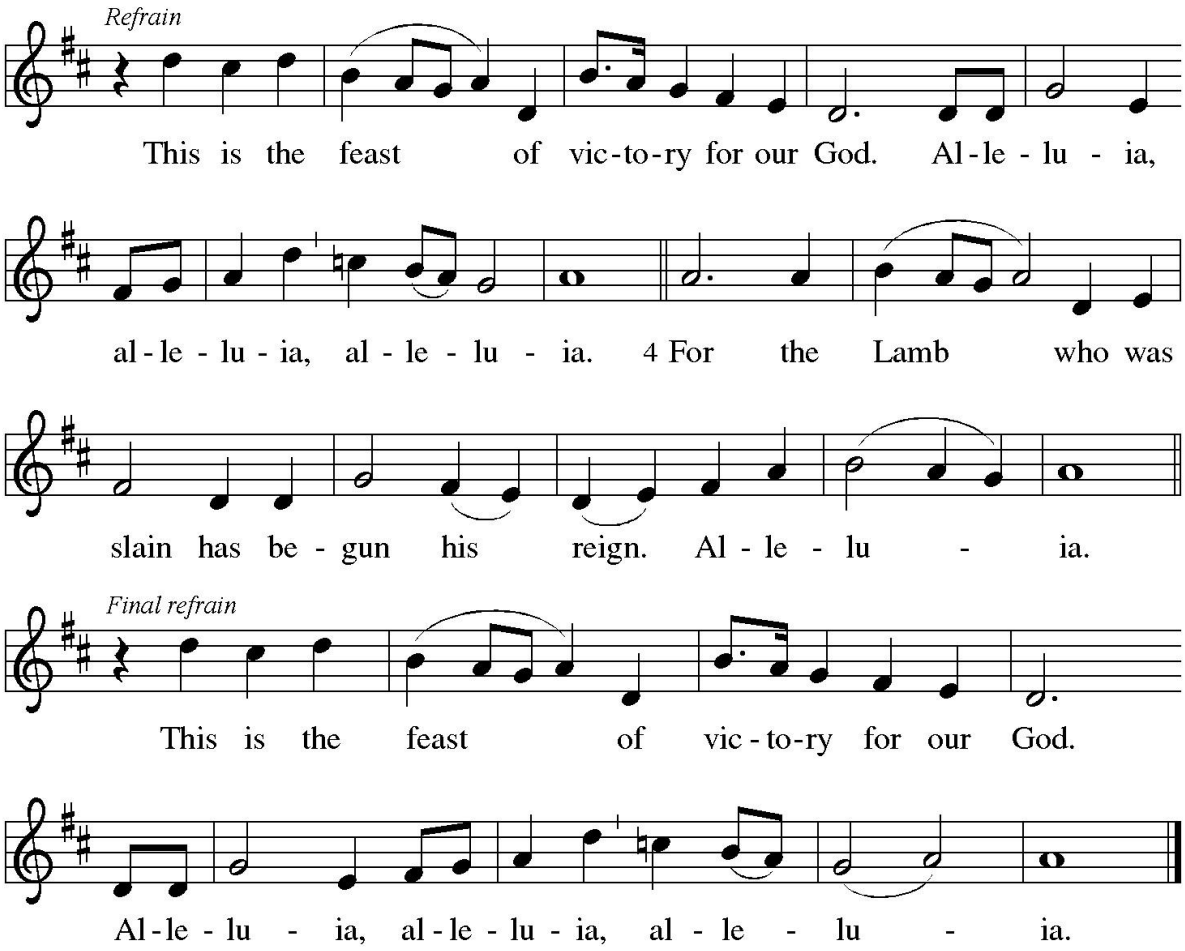






***HYMN OF PRAISE** *"This Is The Feast"* **ELW p. 140-141**





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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

WORD

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before
the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud
voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and
where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he
said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed
their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
2 **I will glory in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.
4 **I sought the LORD, who answered me**
and delivered me from all my terrors.
5 Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

[6] **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.
[7] The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.
[8] **Taste and see that the LORD is good;**
happy are they who take refuge in God!
[9] Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
[10] **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
[22] O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

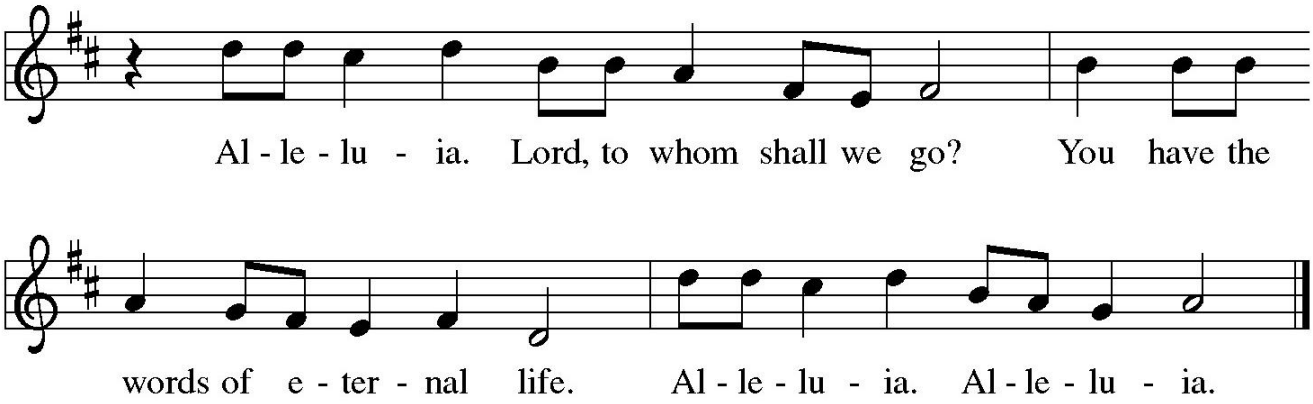
ANTHEM *"Headin' For the Promised Land"* **Sleeth/Larson**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and
that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
[2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What
we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
[3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 5th Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

SERMON – "God's Blessedness Through You"

***CANDLE LIGHTING AND REMEMBRANCE**
Congregation, please stand and face the baptismal font. Acolyte stands by Pastor Sarah at the Baptismal font.

Most generous God, everyday and in every place we rise to give you thanks and praise. For our birth into the amazing world, made in your image, stewards of creation and pastors of one another.

For abundant life made visible and accessible in the word and way of Jesus from birth to death and resurrection. For Christ's saving grace made ever present in each generation by your Holy Spirit within the community of the church.

Especially today we give you thanks for all your faithful children that have lived before us, and for our departed loved ones for whom heaven is now a home of joy and wonder.

We light a candle for those loved ones at FELC who have died since last All Saints Day.
(bell tolls and acolyte lights the individual taper candle as names are mentioned)

- John Margias
- James Grolla
- And one for those others you know who have died

At this point, the congregation is invited to come back to the baptismal font, light a floating candle, and place it in the baptismal font. The acolyte will light your floating candle. Once you have placed your candle in the font, please return to your seat. You are invited to pick up a floating candle to take home with you at the end of worship service to let the remembrance continue.

P: The light of remembrance shines before all here in this gathering. Let us pray,
C: Almighty God, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Borning Cry"* **ELW #732**

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

***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

***PEACE**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

P: God, we praise you Lord …. God in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING *"I Will Always Remember"* **Ylvisaker**
(*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: Eternal God,

C: our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

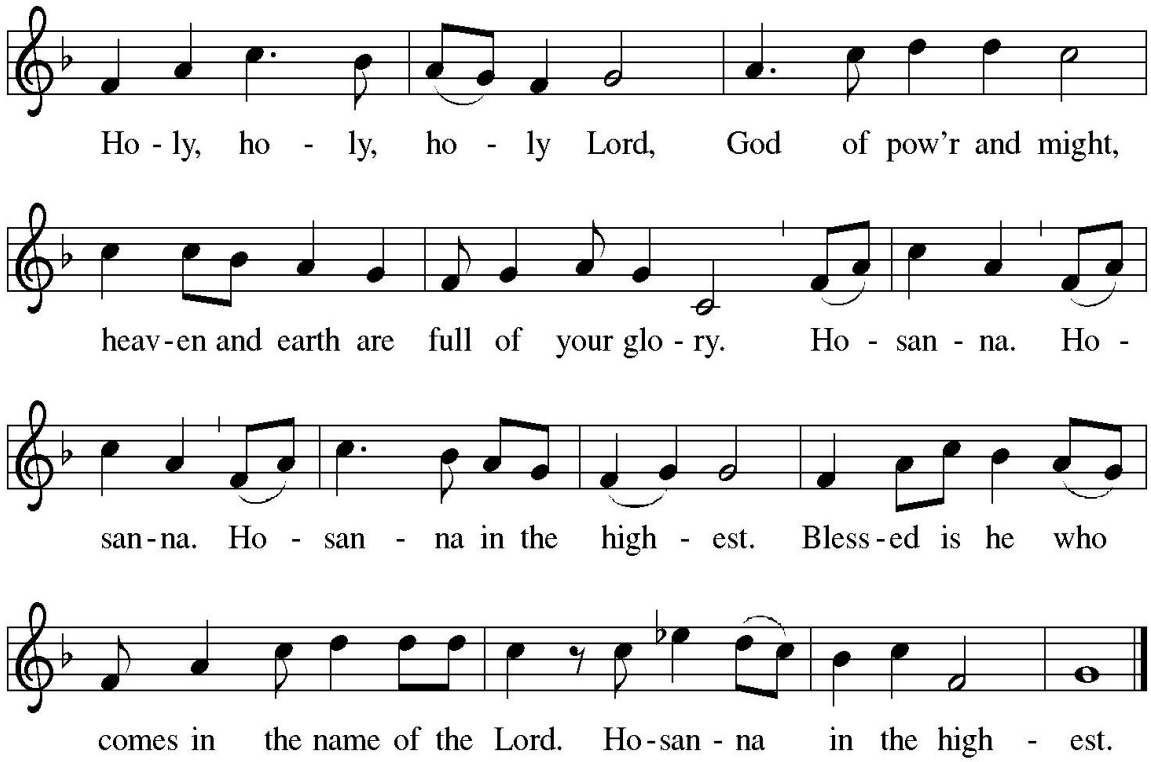
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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.
By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling,
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **ELW p. 144**



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…
C: Amen

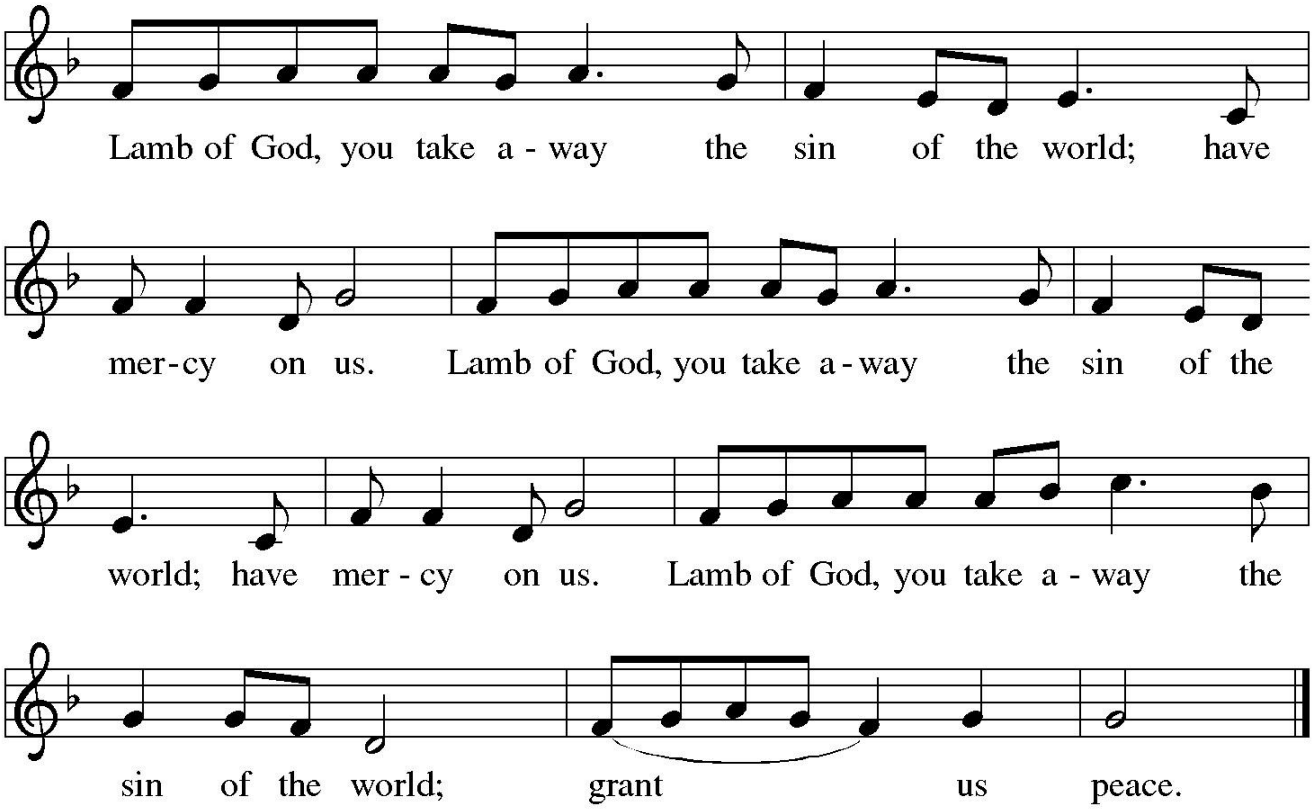
LORD'S PRAYER **ELW p. 145**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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**



***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Holy God,
C: we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out,
awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

***EUCHARISTIC 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.

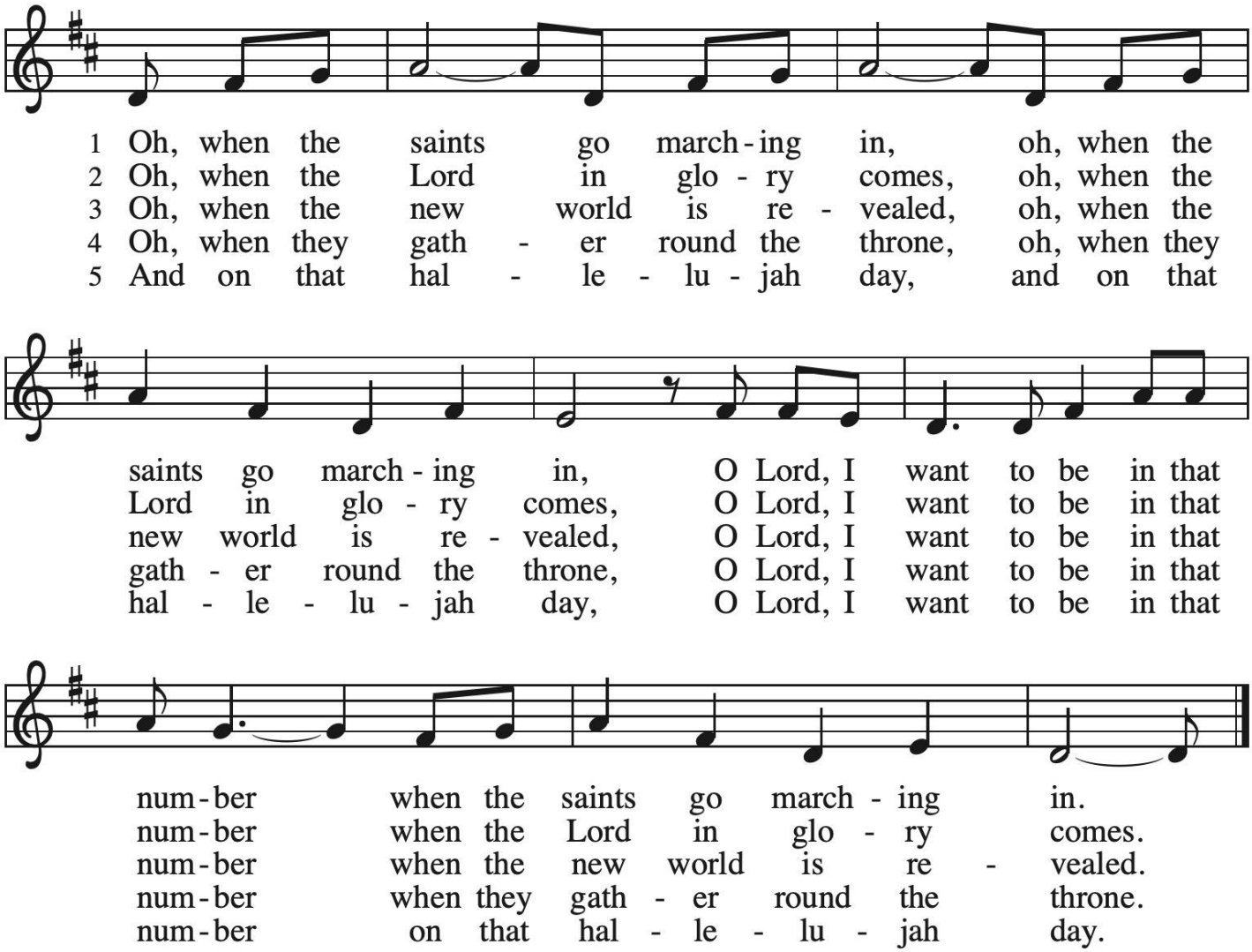
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *"Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"*



Text: African American spiritual
Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

***DISMISSAL**
A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Rev. Dr. Sarah Cordray
Assisting Minister	Marty Brilley
Slides	Ruth Nihiser
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Milton Scott
Violinist	Hayley Helpingstine
Technical Director	Lucas Reynolds
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Steve Wenger
Greeter	Tami & Bruce Cannon
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	
Money Counters	Judy & Bob Carney and Mike Corley
Indoor Plant Watering	Pat Dalen

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & Family, Nora Beck, Peg Books, Mary Broomfield,
Bill & Sandy Fitzgerrel, Scott Geiger, Esther Gregory, Jan Lawson,
Dale Pelz (Brother of Nancy Salefski), Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood,
Mary Ann & Ken Stolley, Rick Strine

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.

Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- **Thank you** to everyone that participated in the **Trunk 'R Treat**. So many of you donated your decorated trunk, your time, candy, smores, and much more! It was a good time and wonderful event! This was a new adventure for both FELC & HC, serving our young neighbors!

- **Sunday, November 29th is joint Worship Service** at Holy Cross. Worship service will begin at 9:30am and there will be fellowship following Worship. All are welcome!!!

FELC Announcements

- We will not have slides this morning.

- The **AMELCA** Team served 121 clients on Wednesday, October 28th.

- Today is **First Fruits Sunday**. Please remember to make a contribution to AMELCA.

- Gunny Bear is inviting you to make a donation of a **new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.** During November, collection boxes will be here at FELC in the narthex and also by the lower door. Please see Bob or Carol Tyler with questions.

- The **church office will be closed every Tuesday and Friday through the end of the year.** Kay is still going to physical therapy a couple times a week and will be taking vacation time on those days.

- **Pastor Sarah** will be out of the office in **training at Dove from Monday, November 2 - Friday November 6.**

- Our **Youth** will be collecting a **Noisy Offering** during worship service the 2nd Sunday each month from November through April 2027. Please remember to bring your noisy and not so noisy offering every 2nd Sunday. Our youth will decide which community outreach will receive the donations.

- **Decatur Area Horn Club** will be playing during Worship Service on Sunday, November 8th.

- **Harvest Fest Potluck is November 8th** after Worship Service in the fellowship hall. Please bring a brunch item to share as we celebrate the Autumn season. Contact Nancy Salefski or Mary Jo Rowley for more information.

- **Christmas Tree Assembly is after worship service on Sunday, November 22nd.** We need MANY volunteers to assemble and decorate the tree. Pizza will be served to all the volunteers.

- **Baby Jesus Christmas Donations** will begin Sunday, November 29th through Sunday, December 20th. Newborn items, including onesies, booties, receiving blankets, and especially diapers can be dropped off in the narthex. All items will be made available to local family agencies. See Jane Cade or Denise Troester with questions.

- You are invited to a **Wassail Party on Sunday, December 6th** from 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at FELC. There will be festive food and music of the season. All are welcome to join the fun!!!

- **Children's Christmas Program will take place during worship service on Sunday, December 13th.** And we will celebrate with SonRise Café after worship service.

- **Christmas Tree take down will be Sunday, January 10th,** after worship service. MANY volunteers are needed to assist with taking down the decorations and tree.

- **Our Grief Group** will resume meeting on January 11th, 2027. This group meets every other Monday from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.

- **Annual Congregational Meeting and Annual Foundation Meeting will be held after worship service on Sunday, January 31st.** All voting members are encouraged to attend. Your vote counts!!

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In

