

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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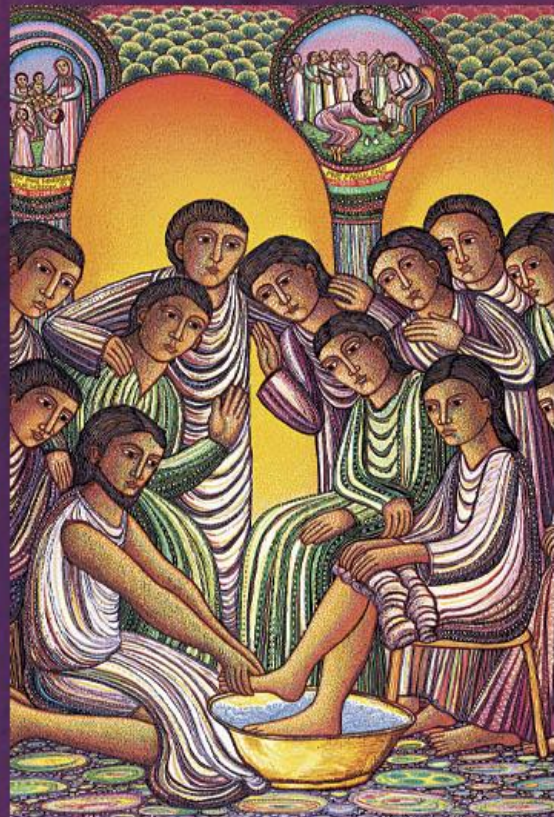
We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>

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

He loved
them to
the end

JOHN 13:1



**MAUNDY THURSDAY
HOLY COMMUNION
April 17, 2025 at 5:30 pm**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with
power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***HYMN**

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW #612

***GREETING**

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

**C: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new
commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our
hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb; it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**
¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**
¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**
¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

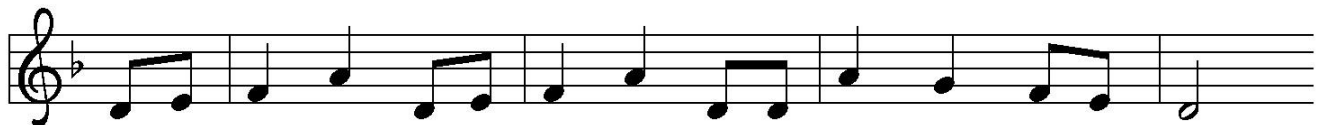
In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

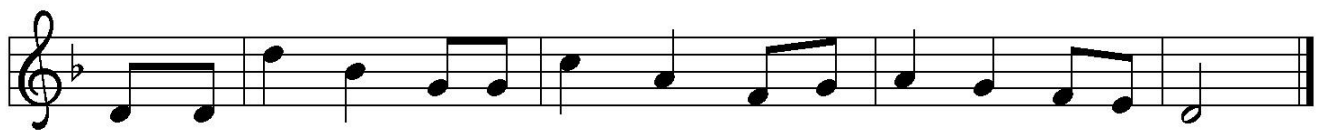
A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

- 1: Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.
- 2: Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- 3: The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him.
- 4: And during supper, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table,
- 5: took off his outer robe,
- 6: and tied a towel around himself.

- 1: Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.
- 2: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
- 3: Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- 4: Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."
- 5: Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."
- 6: Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

- 1: Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."
- 2: For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."
- 3: After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"
- 4: You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.
- 5: So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- 6: For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

- 1: Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.
- 2: If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
- 3: Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.
- 4: If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
- 5: Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

6: I give you a new commandment,
6, 1: that you love one another.
6, 1, 2: Just as I have loved you,
6, 1, 2, 3: you also should love one another.
6, 1, 2, 3, 4: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
All: if you have love for one another.”

A brief pause.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”* **ELW #708**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

P: Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence)

A: Heal the wounds of your church, O God. As we remember your commandment to love one another, guide us toward reconciliation within the body of Christ. Bless all who gather around the world and in this community for these holy three days. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Renew the life of your creation. Restore lands suffering from chronic drought or flood, and protect fragile habitats from destruction. Encourage all who strive to build more sustainable systems for life and thriving. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Bring peace and justice among your people. Where there is oppression or fear, bring liberation and hope. Instill wisdom and humility in local and national leaders, and guide them to serve their communities in the way of Jesus. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Console all who suffer. We pray especially for all who are lonely and yearning for community. Assure them of your loving presence. Come alongside all who cry out to you in any need. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: In the bread and cup we share, you show us the way of love poured out for the whole world. Nourish all who hunger in body or in spirit, that they experience the life abundant that flows from you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

P: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

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

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

C: Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.**

**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***THE 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.

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;
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
Transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.
C: Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament
you strengthen us with the saving power
of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
May this sacrament of your body and blood
so work in us that the fruits of your redemption
will show forth in the way we live,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped of Eucharistic vessels, candles, linens, and paraments at the end of the Maundy Thursday service as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's humiliation by the soldiers. There is no benediction to postlude on Maundy Thursday because there is to be a continuation of services from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. The church is left in silence, and the transition is made from tonight's Eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ stripped of His power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

Psalm 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

²let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.

³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

- ⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,
⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.
- ⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.
- ⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah
- ⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.
- ¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? Selah
- ¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
- ¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
- ¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- ¹⁴O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?
- ¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
- ¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.
- ¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.
- ¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE

Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Dave Bachmann,
Peg Books, Emily Anne Frigy, Esther Gregory, Jan Lawson,
Susan Martin & Family, Frances Murphy, Brenda Oliver,
Dominic Perrotta, Mary Ann Stolley, 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.*

Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburg
Assisting Minister	Bill Fitzgerrel
Slides	Janice Isaacs
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milt Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Check-In	Lin & John Malachowski and Janice Isaacs
Money Counters	Karen & Steve Wenger and Carol & Ken Broeking

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