

# **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!*

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## ***"God's Love For You At Calvary"***

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**April 18, 2025, at 5:30 am**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

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

# WELCOME

## PRELUDE

### INTRODUCTION

P: “Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we prayer for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.” At the end of tonight’s service, we depart silently, and we anticipate the day of resurrection.

### THE BIDDING PRAYER

*By ancient usage this Prayer was specially appointed for Good Friday. A short pause of silence will be observed between the bid and the prayer. The congregation responds with the words in bold.*

P: Brothers and sisters, let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would keep and defend it against all the assaults and temptations of the devil, and keep it always on the true foundation, Jesus Christ.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and the Word of his truth. Keep your people in safety, that your church, spread throughout all nations, may serve you in true faith and remain steadfast in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for all servants of the Word and for all the people of God.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, you govern and sanctify the whole body of the church by your Holy Spirit. Receive the prayers we offer you, that all members of your church in their vocations and ministries may serve you in truth and godliness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for those instructed in the Christian faith, that our Lord God would open their hearts and pour out his mercy, that having received the forgiveness of all their sins by the washing of rebirth, they may remember their baptism and remain firm in the faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, you always cause your Church to grow, and with your light and grace you strengthen the hearts of those you have given new birth through water and the Spirit. Grant that those instructed in the Christian faith increase in faith and**

**knowledge, that they may rejoice in their baptism and grow as members of the holy body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for all in authority, and especially for the government of the United States, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: O merciful Father in heaven, you hold in your hand all the might of the nations, and you have established the authorities that exist for the punishment of evildoers and for the commending of those who do what is right. Yours is all rule and authority in the kingdoms of the world. Graciously regard your servants, the President of the United States, the governor of this state, our judges and officers, and all the rulers of the earth, that all who receive the sword as your servants, may bear it according to your commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray to our Lord God almighty, that he would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, free those in bondage, grant a safe return to the travelers, health to the sick, and a safe harbor for those at sea.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, the comfort of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak: Graciously hear the prayers of those who cry to you in any trouble or distress, that in all their needs they may see and receive your great help and comfort; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for those who do not know Christ, that those who walk in darkness may see his glorious light.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, you do not desire the death of a sinner but want all people to repent and live. Hear our prayers for those who do not know you. Turn their hearts from idols and empty things to the living and true God and gather them into your holy Church for the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word, and walk before him as is fitting for Christians.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by your Spirit all things are governed, by your providence all things are ordered. You are the God of peace, and the Author of all concord. Grant us your heavenly peace and unity, that we may serve you in true fear, to the praise and glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy, and graciously give them whatever is needful for them and profitable for their salvation

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: Almighty and eternal God, through your only Son, our blessed Lord, you commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us and to pray for those who persecute us. Lead all our enemies to true repentance, that they may have the same love and be of one mind and heart with us and with your whole Christian Church; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down his blessing on them, and graciously move our hearts to enjoy them in submission to his holy will.

*(Short pause of silence.)*

**C: O Lord, Father almighty, by your Word you created and bless and uphold all things. Reveal to us your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would dwell in our hearts, and that by your grace we may receive your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatever we need for body and life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, singing:

**The Lord's Prayer** (sung)

Allbert Hay Malotte

*Source: The Bidding Prayer is modified from The Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church, 1917, 1918 The United Lutheran Church in America, now in the public domain.*

*This modification © 2021 Paul C. Stratman and <http://www.acollectionofprayers.com>.*

*The bid and petition for the catechumens was reworked and newly composed in part for this version of the Bidding Prayer.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

**C: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**All readers:** A section of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,  
chapter 18

### **Reader A**

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley  
to a place where there was a garden,  
which he and his disciples entered.  
Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place,  
because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

**Reader B**

So, Judas brought a detachment of soldiers  
together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees,  
and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.  
Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him,  
came forward and asked them,  
“Whom are you looking for?”  
They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.”  
Jesus replied, “I am he.”

**Reader C**

Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.  
When Jesus said to them, “I am he,”  
they stepped back and fell to the ground.  
Again, he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?”  
And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”  
Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he.  
So, if you are looking for me, let these others go.”  
This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken,  
“I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”

**Reader A**

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it,  
struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear.  
The slave’s name was Malchus.  
Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath.  
Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

**Reader B**

So, the soldiers, their officer, and the Judean police  
arrested Jesus and bound him.

**Reader C**

First, they took him to Annas,  
who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas,  
the high priest that year.  
Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Judeans  
that it was better to have one person die for the people.  
Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus.

**Reader A**

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

**Reader B**

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters.

**Reader C**

And Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

## LISTENING TO THE CRY OF CREATION: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*Expanded and adapted from “Listening to the Cry of Creation” by Linda Neil, CSJ*

The Stations of the Cross has been a devotional practice for many centuries. Drawing on both scriptural images and traditions that emerged over generations about the day of Jesus’ crucifixion, the stations invite us into contemplation of both Jesus’ sufferings and the sufferings of the whole creation.

Contained in this rite are quotes from *Laudato Si’*, an encyclical written by Pope Francis in 2015 (line numbers are indicated after each quote). In the opening paragraph he states, “Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us” (1). Pope Francis draws on scripture, theology, and science to describe the ecological crisis in the twenty-first century. In doing so, he calls the whole church and indeed the whole world “to acknowledge the appeal, immensity, and urgency of the challenge we face” (15).

P: In the name of the One  
    who creates all things,  
    who bears all sufferings,  
    ✙ who enlivens all creatures.

**C: Amen.**

P: We gather today around the ancient tradition of the Stations of the Cross. The stations give us a window into the sufferings of Jesus and call us to listen to the cry of all who experience poverty, marginalization, and persecution. Now as never before, our awareness extends to the suffering of the whole earth. We hear today words of Pope Francis, whose work *Laudato Si’* has been pivotal in calling Christians around the globe to meet Christ at the cross and attend to the suffering earth.

As we reflect at these stations, we are called to witness the cry of creation, to pray for the web of life, and to lend our voice to halt destruction. We also remember that God’s presence in suffering makes resurrection possible.

Let us pray.

God of the cross, we stand in awe of your love made known in the midst of suffering. As we behold your life-giving cross and remember your passion and death, hear our cries and those of all creation for your redeeming and resurrecting grace, through Christ the Crucified One.

**C: Amen.**

### **Station 1. Jesus is condemned to death.**

Mindful that so many creatures have been condemned to extinction, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been lost.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence nor convey their message to us. We have no such right” (Laudato Si’ 33).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

### **Station 2. Jesus carries his cross.**

Mindful that holding on to excess goods makes it challenging for us to pick up the cross, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been affected by human consumerism.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“‘Less is more.’ A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment” (Laudato Si’ 222).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 1 – Refrain*

### **Station 3. Jesus falls the first time.**

Mindful of the heaviness of our own sin, let us call to mind and heart our behaviors that harm creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“A healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change” (Laudato Si’ 218).

*Choir Anthem - “What Have We Done” Hal H. Hopson*

### **Station 4. Jesus meets his mother.**

Mindful of the nourishing gifts God provides in creation, let us call to mind and heart that the earth is our mother.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, [God’s] boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains—everything is, as it were, a caress of God” (Laudato Si’ 84).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 2 – Refrain*

**Station 5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.**

Mindful that each of us has gifts to offer and opportunities to serve, let us call to mind and heart our personal call to serve creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to [their] own culture, experience, involvements and talents” (Laudato Si’ 14).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

**Station 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

Mindful that beholding the face of another in love inspires compassion, let us call to mind and heart our mystical connection to creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things” (Laudato Si’ 233).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 3 – Refrain*

**Station 7. Jesus falls the second time.**

Mindful of the ways our actions place burdens on others, let us call to mind and heart all our suffering human siblings.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person . . . it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself” (Laudato Si’ 117).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

**Station 8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

Mindful of Jesus’ invitation to the women to weep not for him but for their children, let us call to mind and heart our responsibility to the next generation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question does not have to do with the environment alone and in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal” (Laudato Si’ 160).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 4 – Refrain*



### **Station 9. Jesus falls the third time.**

Mindful that we can become overwhelmed by the suffering of the earth, let us call to mind and heart a concern for creation that weighs on us.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world’s problems and in offering ourselves to God ‘as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable’ (Rom 12:1)” (Laudato Si’ 220).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

### **Station 10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.**

Mindful that many are stripped of their safety as they advocate care for the earth, let us call to mind and heart those who risk their lives to protect creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“Clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism\* unconcerned for other creatures” (Laudato Si’ 68).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 5 – Refrain*

\* Anthropocentrism is the centering of human beings above other parts of creation.

### **Station 11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.**

Mindful of our call to reject violence in every form, let us bring to mind and heart our call to acts of service to creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” (Laudato Si’ 230).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

### **Station 12. Jesus dies on the cross.**

Mindful of the ways our personal actions, human systems, governments, and corporations destroy the earth, let us call to mind and heart our responsibility for that destruction.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“This sister [our common home] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life” (Laudato Si’ 2).

*Choir Anthem – “Lamb of God Most Holy” ACS 932*

*with reading from Crossings: Meditations for Worship written by Susan Palo Cherwien*

**Station 13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.**

Mindful that we cast off so much waste that others must bear and that we confuse what is precious with what is waste, let us call to mind and heart our misuse and abuse of resources.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth” (Laudato Si’ 21).

*Behold the Wood – Choir Stanza 6 – Refrain*

**Station 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Mindful that at times we shut away that which troubles us, let us call to mind and heart those who refuse to accept the truth of our changing climate.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty” (Laudato Si’ 175).

*Behold the Wood - Refrain*

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**HYMN**

*“There in God’s Garden”*

**ELW 342**

**ALL DEPART IN SILENCE**

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## 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 Augsburger

Slides

Abbey Jordan

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

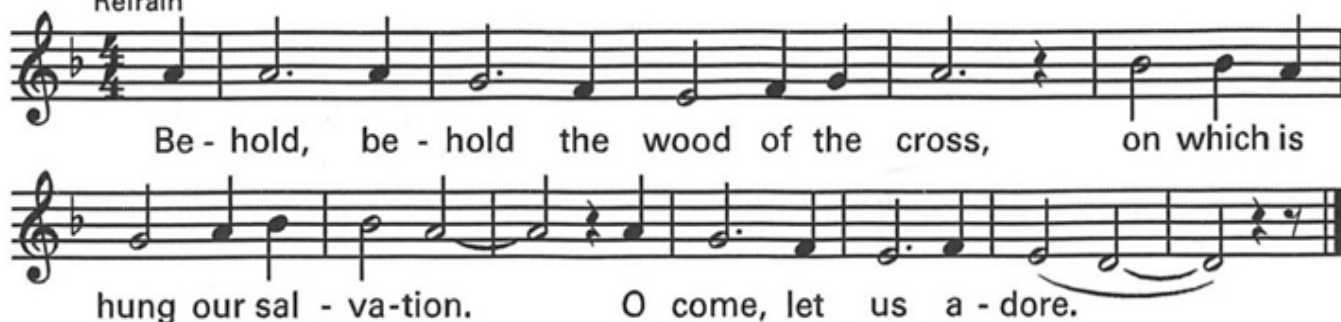
Money Counters

Karen & Steve Wenger and Carol & Ken Broeking

# BEHOLD THE WOOD

Dan Schutte

## Refrain



Be - hold, be - hold the wood of the cross, on which is  
hung our sal - va-tion. O come, let us a - dore.

## Verses



1. Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up - on the ground and die, it
2. And when my hour of glo - ry comes as all was meant to be, &
3. For there can be no great - er love — shown up - on this land than
4. My Fa - ther, if it be your plan, this cup might pass me by; yet
5. For sure - ly he has borne our tears, is wound - ed by our sin, and
6. My bod - y now is torn with pain, my friends have left and gone. O



1. shall re - main but a sin - gle grain and not give life.
2. you shall see me lift - ed up up - on a tree.
3. in the one who came to die that we might live.
4. let it hap - pen as you will if I must die.
5. yet he o - pens not his mouth that we might live.
6. lov - ing Fa - ther, take my life in - to your hands.

Text: Based on Good Friday Liturgy; John 12:24, 32; 15:13. Text and music © 1976, OCP. All rights reserved.