

WELCOMING WORD *In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Great are your works, O Lord,

C: pondered by all who delight in them.

L: The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;

C: all of your precepts are sure.

L: They stand fast forever and ever,

C: because they are done in truth and equity.

OPENING HYMN #423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart.
Consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness. **Amen.**

INVOCATION

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: Compassionate God,

C: you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ¹⁵[Moses said:] The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said; "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die."

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth –as in fact there are many gods and many lords- ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28 ²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #90 Songs of Thankfulness & Praise (vs 1-3)

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise.
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar
Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in Flesh made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest.
Manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in Flesh made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul,
Manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might.
Manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in Flesh made manifest.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials, and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (*especially*); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (*especially*), Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.*

CLOSING HYMN: #559 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

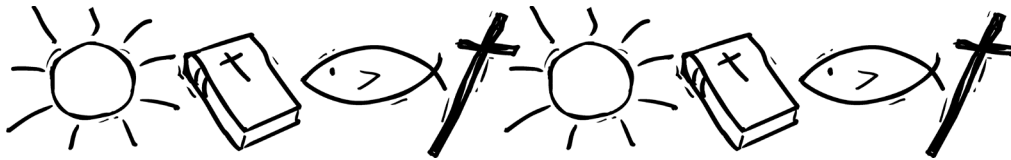
Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

To God all glory, praise and love be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Devon Schlegel (father of Dawn Haag)
Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag)
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Brufat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Vivian Stone

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson
Bonnie Bender

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LENTEN/EASTER CRAFT BOXES Craft boxes are back! They will contain family games and crafts to help guide families through the Lenten season and Easter. Sign up by emailing brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org to reserve your box by Feb 8th. Estimate pick up will be around Ash Wednesday.

YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES ON ZOOM:

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 9 am

CONFIRMATION meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) - ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>.

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" - Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

A graphic for an ELC Painting Class. It features a photograph of Sarah Gerg, a woman with glasses and a denim jacket, smiling. To her right is a framed picture of a springtime scene with a yellow bird. The text on the graphic reads:

ELC PAINTING CLASS
(on ZOOM)
with Sarah Gerg
March 6th, 9 am - 12 pm

Join us on an adventure to learn to paint a springtime picture, designed by Sarah.

Please RSVP to brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org by February 12th.

FEE: \$15.00/person

Hosted by ELC Ministries (Children & Youth; Spiritual Growth & Fellowship)

EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Mount Horeb

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 35:1-10, Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

Tuesday, Luke 2:22-40, Presentation of our Lord

Wednesday, Jeremiah 29:1-14, Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

Thursday, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Praise for God's Care for Jerusalem

Friday, 1 Corinthians 9:1-16, The Rights of an Apostle

Saturday, Isaiah 46:1-13, Idols Cannot Save

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *"there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?'... Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'"* Mark 1:23-25. Jesus is teaching in the synagogue on the sabbath when he encountered the man with the unclean spirit and commanded the spirit to leave.

- In today's society what might you consider to be an unclean spirit?
- If we think of an unclean spirit as something that inhibits a person's ability to spread the love of Jesus to others, what might some of those be in your life?
- How are you being called to confront unclean spirits (racism, homophobia, alcoholism, etc.) in your own lives?
- How have you shared that call with others?

PRAY: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESS: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter keep you in peace. **Amen.**