

WELCOMING WORD *In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

C: How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

L: The LORD heals the brokenhearted

C: and binds up their wounds.

L: The LORD lifts up the lowly,

C: but casts the wicked to the ground.

L: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

C: make music upon the harp to our God,

OPENING HYMN #256 O Sing Jubilee (vs. 1-3)

Oh, sing jubilee to the Lord, ev'ry land; Glory be to God!

Oh, serve him with gladness, as in his hall we stand;

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

He made us his own, and has given us breath; Glory be to God!

The sheep of his pasture, we need not fear our death;

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

Oh, come to his feast with thanksgiving and praise; Glory be to God!

Give glory to him, and your brightest banners raise;

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

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: Everlasting God,

C: you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 40:21-31 ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23 ¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39 ²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #716 *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* (vs. 1-3)

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending.
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high, word that brought to life creation.
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation;
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness.
Deaf we are: our healer be; loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, heal the world, by our sin broken.

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 the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim healing and release in the name of Christ, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, managers and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you (*especially*), Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here, our benevolence partners nearby and around the world; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, 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: #448 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers toils and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.



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 9:00am**
CONFIRMATION meets on **Wednesdays at 7:00pm**

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM Join us on **Wednesdays at 10:00am** 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!



FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, **Tuesdays, February 9th and 23rd at 7:00pm**. Time for games and a chance to connect. Email Brenda for the link.

ELC PAINTING CLASS ELC Ministries (Children & Youth; Spiritual Growth & Fellowship) invite you to join us on **March 6th, 9:00am - 12:00pm**, on Zoom for an opportunity to paint a picture together. Our class will be led by Sarah Gerg. She is from Mt Horeb, and currently studying at Rhode Island School of Design. She will guide everyone 'step by step' to complete a springtime painting. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org by February 12th. Materials will be available for pickup prior to the workshop. Our fee for the class is \$15/person to help with the costs of the materials. Looking forward to this opportunity!

A graphic for the ELC Painting Class. It features a photograph of Sarah Gerg, a woman with glasses and a blue jacket, smiling. To her right is a framed picture of a springtime scene. The text 'ELC PAINTING CLASS (on ZOOM) with Sarah Gerg March 6th, 9 am - 12 pm' is prominently displayed. Below the photo is the logo for 'EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Mount Horeb'. A yellow text box on the right contains the following information: '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)'

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 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 102:12-28, Prayer to the Eternal King for Help

Tuesday, 2 Kings 8:1-6, The Shunammite Woman's Land Restored

Wednesday, Mark 3:7-12, A Multitude at the Lakeside

Thursday, Psalm 50:1-6, God's Might

Friday, 1 Timothy 1:12-20, Paul's Gratitude for Mercy

Saturday, Luke 19:41-44, Jesus weeps over Jerusalem

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him." Mark 1:34. *Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

- Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the needs of the world?
- Did Jesus ever meet a person he felt was unworthy of his time and compassion?
- Jesus takes time apart to pray and prepare?
- How do you take care of your spiritual and physical life to remain ready to serve and follow Jesus?

PRAY: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through 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.**