

SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 19, 2023 -9:00 AM



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 19, 2023 | Transfiguration of our Lord | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

PRELUDE – Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C - Amen.

P - Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

P - Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 - In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C - Amen

OPENING HYMN:

843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

GREETING

L: 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 pg. 138

+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140 *"This is the feast..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God,

C: in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Congregational Songs – "God of Wonders"
"Better Is One Day"**

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well

pleased.”¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 17

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM – “How Great Thou Art”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN # 720 - We Are Called

(The choir will sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join on each refrain. Since this is a new hymn, you are encouraged to follow the music in the hymnal.)

DEDICATION OF THE ELW HYMNALS

The people of God have sung songs from the beginning of time. We sing in times of ceremony: "David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals" (2 Samuel 6:5).

We sing because our God is so great and so good:

"Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts" (Psalm 33:2-3).

We sing in times of celebration:

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. . . . For the Lord takes pleasure in his people" (Psalm 149:1,4a).

We sing as an expression of our joy and thanksgiving:

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy" (Psalm 92:1-4).

We sing in times of uncertainty and distress:

"I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (Matthew 26:29-30).

And we sing because it is part of our new life in Christ:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God" (Colossians 3:16).

We present these hymnals to the glory of God and for service in the life of this congregation. We dedicate them in honor and loving memory of family, friends, and others for whom we now offer thanks.

Eternal and loving God, we thank you for music and the gift of song
We consecrate them, and our lives, to your service, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING – SONG “Jesus Loves Me Medley”

OFFERTORY - #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

MEAL

+ Offering Prayer: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

+The Great Thanksgiving pg. 144

+Words of Institution

+ The Lord's Prayer pg. 145 (right hand column)

Communion Hymn: # 471 - Let Us Break Bread Together

(This spiritual has its roots in the coast and sea islands of southeastern United States. It was created by the Gullah/Geechee people who were enslaved on rice, indigo and cotton plantations there.)

Prayer after Communion: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

+HYMN # 803 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(This traditional hymn had been left out of the green hymnal but has been brought back in the new one.)

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2023

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 78:17-20, 52-55, Ingratitude/Faithfulness

Tuesday, Romans 11:1-6, Israel's Rejection is not Final

Wednesday, Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Return to the Lord

Thursday, Psalm 51, Create in Me a Clean Heart

Friday, Jonah 4:1-11, Jonah's Anger

Saturday, Isaiah 58:1-12, False and True Worship

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” -- Matthew 17:5b

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

- What visual images of God come to mind for you? How do they strengthen your relationship with God? (Exod 24:17)
- If prophecy is inspired by the Spirit, what does that say about the value of Christian community? (2 Peter 1:16)
- What other times does a Bible figure say, “Do not be afraid”? Why does the phrase appear so often? (Matt 17:7)

PRAY: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. Amen.