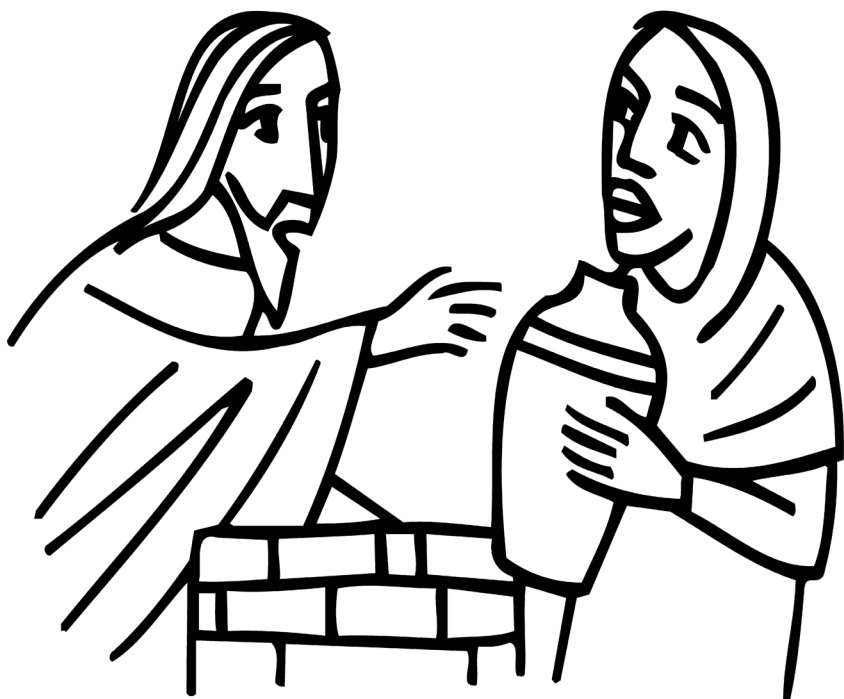


**SUNDAY- MARCH 12, 2023 -9:00 AM**



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
BARRY HOERZ

[ELC@MHTC.NET](mailto:ELC@MHTC.NET) - 608-437-5012

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 12, 2023 | Third Sunday in Lent | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

**OPENING HYMN: #335 - Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

*(This is another of Fanny Crosby's many hymn texts. As a student and then a teacher at a school for the blind in New York City, her poetry had brought widespread acclaim. In 1850, feeling that something was missing in her life, Fanny attended a revival meeting. At the altar call she accepted Christ as her Savior, and shortly thereafter, turned her poetic skills to hymn writing).*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C - Amen.**

P - Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**C - we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P - Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. Amen.

**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. 203** ("Have Mercy on us, Lord")

+ **HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 204** ("Glory be to God...")

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Merciful God, the fountain of living water,

**C: you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 – *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
All Who Are Thirsty***

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **+ACCLAMATION (pg. 205)**

**(sing) We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind – slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 4

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?<sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."<sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."<sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"<sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"<sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."<sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."<sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for

harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

**+C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** - "*Cry Out and Shout*"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN** - *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (insert)

**+APOSTLES' CREED** pg. 105

**OFFERING** -

**MUSIC** - "*Word of God Speak*"

**OFFERTORY #186** "*Create in me....*"

**THE PRAYERS** (pg. 206)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words: "Lord in your mercy..." The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**")

**+THE LORD'S PRAYER** (pg. 208) (right hand column)

**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.**

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**

**# 618** - *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

**+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 MARCH 12, 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 81, God's Appeal to a Stubborn People

**Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Warnings from Israel's history

**Wednesday,** John 7:14-31, 37-39, Living Water

**Thursday,** Psalm 23, The Good Shepherd

**Friday,** Ephesians 5:1-9, Live as Children of Light

**Saturday,** 1 Samuel 15:32-34, Samuel and Saul

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

**"Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of  
this water will be thirsty again,"  
John 4:13**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

- When have you been taken off-guard by the kindness or attention of a stranger? (John 4:5-42)
- Do you have a quarrel with God? What is it? (Exod 17:1-7)
- What qualities and assets have God produced in you through your life experiences? (Rom 5:1-11)

**PRAY:** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BLESS:** God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.