

SUNDAY- MARCH 5, 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
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 5, 2023 | Second Sunday in Lent | 9:00 AM

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

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

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.

OPENING HYMN: # 638 - *Blessed Assurance*

(The composer and the poet of this beloved hymn were both women and were good friends. Composer, Phoebe Knapp, lived lavishly in a Brooklyn mansion. Poet, Fanny Crosby, was blind, lived in the Manhattan slums and worked in rescue missions. One day in 1873, while Fanny was staying at the Knapp Mansion, Phoebe played one of her new compositions. Fanny immediately clapped her hands and said, "Why, that says, "Blessed Assurance!" She quickly composed the words, and a great hymn was born. Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8,000 gospel song texts.)

ORDER FOR BAPTISM (see insert)

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: O God, our leader and guide,

C: in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregational Songs – *In Christ Alone*
 I Love You, Lord

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

+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 3

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM – “God So Loved the World”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN # 759 - My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OFFERING – SONG I’ll Fly Away

OFFERTORY - #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

MEAL

+ **Offering Prayer:** God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

+ **The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 206

+ **"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"** pg. 207

+ **Words of Institution**

+ **The Lord's Prayer** pg. 208 (right hand column)

Communion Hymn: # 462 - Now We Join in Celebration
#338 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Prayer after Communion: Lord God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. 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 # 660 - Lift High the Cross**

+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 5, 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 128, The Happy Home of the Faithful

Tuesday, Isaiah 65:17-25, The Glorious New Creation

Wednesday, John 7:53-8:11, The Woman Caught in Adultery

Thursday, Psalm 95, A Call to Worship

Friday, Ephesians 2:11-22, One in Christ

Saturday, Exodus 16:27-35, Manna in the Wilderness

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

- How would explain baptism using language other than that which is traditional or school-taught? (John 3)
- What do you mean or hope for when you ask God to bless someone? (Gen 12:1-4)
- In what ways has God uniquely equipped or positioned you to share your faith with others? (Rom 4:1-5)

PRAY: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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.