

SUNDAY- MAY 14, 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 6th Sunday of Easter | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

834 - *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ORDER FOR BAPTISM - (insert)

SPECIAL MUSIC -

*"When I Think Upon Thy Goodness" -
Sarah Strube*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and ever-living God,

C: you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receives the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *Reign On Me"*

"Forever"

FIRST READING - Acts 17:22-31 ²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortal's life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

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

L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 14,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM:

“Awake, My Soul”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 582 -

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

GRADUATE BLANKET BLESSING (Insert)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lay Your Hand Upon Me Gently”

Jim, Owen, and Aaron Schmidt

BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION – Partner’s with Puerto Rico

OFFERING – (please pass the pew pads at this time)

MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM:

“Lifesong”

OFFERTORY #186 “Create in me....”

+THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 145) (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 # 543 - Go, My Children, with My Blessing

+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 MAY 14, 2023

SHARE: What are your highs/lows for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Luke 6:12-16, Jesus Chooses the Twelve

Tuesday, 1 Peter 3:8-12. Suffering for Doing Right

Wednesday, John 16:16-24, Sorry Will Turn into Joy

Thursday, Luke 24:44-53, The Ascension

Friday, Ephesians 2:1-7, From Death to Life

Saturday, 2 Kings 2;13-15, Elisha Succeeds Elijah

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
– John 14:15**

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

1. Have you ever been lost or abandoned? If so, how did you feel and what did you do? (John 14:15-21)
2. What sacred symbols would you remove or re-imagine to better communicate in today's culture? (Acts 17:22-31)
3. What are your prayer habits and where did you learn them? (Psa 66:8-20)

PRAY: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.