

**SUNDAY- JULY 23, 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, July 23, 2023 | 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM  
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #461 - All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C - Amen.**

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Merciful God,

**C - we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P - God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C - 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. 138**

**+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 139 "Glory to God in the Highest..."**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Faithful God,

**C: most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:

*To Be Alive*

*The Family Prayer Song*

## FIRST READING - Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **+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 13,

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

## **HYMN # 516 - Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

(You may wish to follow the music in the hymnal, as this is an unfamiliar tune.)

**+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105**

**BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION – Young Adults in Global Mission**  
**Cecilia Hook**

**OFFERING –**

**MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM:** *Make A Difference*

**OFFERTORY #186 “Create in me....”**

**THE PRAYERS** (pg. 143)

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

**+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**

**# 650 - In Christ, There Is No East or West**

**+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 JULY 23, 2023**

**SHARE:** What are your highs/lows for today?

**READ:** Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Psalm 75, Thanksgiving for God's Wondrous Deeds

**Tuesday,** Mark 10:35-45, James and Johns' request

**Wednesday,** Daniel 12:1-13, The Resurrection of the Dead

**Thursday,** Psalm 119:129-136, God's Good Decrees

**Friday,** Acts 7:44-53, The Stubbornness of God's People

**Saturday,** 1 Kings 2:1-4, Elijah Ascends to Heaven

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

**"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;"  
- Matthew 13:24**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

- Isaiah declares there is no God beside the God of Israel. What lesser things do people give their allegiance to? (Isaiah 44:6)
- Where have you experience the 'groaning of creation' and your own 'groaning inwardly' that Paul describes? (Romans 8:22-23)
- Is the master's decision to let the weeds grow more about patience or discernment? (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)

**PRAY:** O God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed /bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. Amen.