

**SUNDAY- JULY 30, 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 30, 2023 | 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM  
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:**

**# 807 - Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing**

**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: Beloved and sovereign God,

**C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:

*Lord Reign In Me  
More Precious Than Silver*

## FIRST READING - 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today." <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not

with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**+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 13:31-33, 44-52**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." <sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor Barry Hoerz

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

**+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105**

**OFFERING -**

**MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM: *Live Like That***

**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 # 834 - *Immortal, Invisible***

**+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 30, 2023

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

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

**Monday,** Psalm 119:121-128, Prayer for God's Guidance

**Tuesday,** 1 Kings 4:29-34, The Fame of Solomon's Wisdom

**Wednesday,** Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33, The Call of Wisdom

**Thursday,** Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, God's Greatness and Goodness

**Friday,** Isaiah 51:17-23, The People Need God's Guidance

**Saturday,** Isaiah 44:1-5, God's Blessing on Israel

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

**“He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” – Matthew 13:33**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

- Solomon's prayer is for wisdom, rather than riches, what can we learn about our prayers from this? (1 Kings 5:10-12)
- How do you imagine the Spirit interceding? Does the Spirit pray like we do or work in us? (Rom 8:26-39)
- When or where have you seen a small act of faith magnified into something greater? (Matt 13:31-33, 44-52)

**PRAY:** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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.