

**SUNDAY- JULY 9, 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 98, 2023 | 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 a.m.

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

**PRELUDE** – Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Lord, I cry to you for help.

**In the morning my prayer comes before you.**

Let my mouth be full of your praise

**and your glory all the day long.**

Every day will I bless you,

**and praise your name forever and ever.**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

**O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

You redeem my life from the grave,

**and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.**

Lord, hear my prayer,

**and let my cry come before you.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #825 - You Servants of God**

*You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!*

*Ascended on high, almighty to save,  
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!*

*Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.*

Then let us adore and give him his right,  
all glory and pow 'r and wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

## **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: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised.

**C: You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Your Grace Is Enough***

*Great is Your faithfulness, O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart*

*So, remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise, O God*

*Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me (repeat)*

*Great is Your love and justice, God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along*

*So, remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise, O God*

*Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me (repeat)*

*Remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise, O God*

*Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me (repeat)*

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *The River Is Here***

*Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing where ever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here.*

*The river of God Sets our feet to dancing  
The river of God Fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouth with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here.*

*The river of God Is teeming with life  
And all who touch it can be revived.  
And all who linger on this river's shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.*

*The river of God Sets our feet to dancing  
The river of God Fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouth with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here.*

*Up on the mountain, we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run  
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.*

*The river of God sets our feet to dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouth with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here.*

## **FIRST READING - Zechariah 9:9-12**

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if

I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 11,

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**HYMN #595 - Jesus Loves Me**

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.*

#### **Refrain**

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.      **Refrain***

*Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.      **Refrain***

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING Song - Praise Team: You Are So Good to Me**

**OFFERTORY #186** - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**THE PRAYERS** (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

"Lord in your mercy..." The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**")

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, 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.**

## **+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #793 - Be Thou My Vision**

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow 'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow 'r of my pow 'r.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

## **+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 9, 2023**

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

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

**Monday,** Psalm 131, A Song of Quiet Trust

**Tuesday,** Jeremiah 28:10-17, Jeremiah and Hananiah

**Wednesday,** Jeremiah 13:1-11, The Linen Loincloth

**Thursday,** Psalm 65:1-13, Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty

**Friday,** Romans 15:14-21, Paul's Reason for Writing Boldly

**Saturday,** Isaiah 52:1-6, Let Zion Rejoice

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

**“At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; – Matthew 11:25**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

- Can you think of any other ruler, like Jesus, who comes in humility, rather than ruling with armies and weapons? (Zechariah 9:9)
- When you find yourself unable to do the things you know are good, how do you return to God? (Rom 7:15-25)
- What is truly restful? What spiritual practices help you put down your burdens? (Matt 11:16-19, 25-30)

**PRAY:** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through 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.