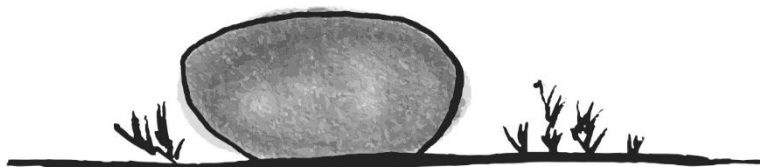


SUNDAY- OCTOBER 1, 2023 -9:00 AM



**STRIKE THE ROCK, AND WATER WILL COME OUT
OF IT, SO THAT THE PEOPLE MAY DRINK.**

EXODUS 17:6

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR
INTERN

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON
ZACH SMIRRIS

ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM

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

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Exodus the people wonder if they can trust God to provide, while God offers new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

OPENING HYMN: # 823 - Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him

LITANY FOR A STEWARDSHIP OF MUTUAL CARE

L: We stand now to confess all we lack in the presence of the Triune God, Mother, Son, and Spirit, whose bounty abolishes need: (*silence for self-examination*) Oh God, we in fear we grumble in our time of need,

C: But your abundance and provision are sure.

L: Holy Spirit, in arrogance we place our hope in status and wealth,

C: But your abundance is limitless and without end.

L: Christ Jesus, we are prone to excluding and restraining others from your table,

C: But your abundance is boundless and freely offered to all.

L: Holy Spirit, in arrogance we place our hope in status and wealth,

C: But your abundance is infinite and lavished upon the least of these.

L: Divine Creator, we are torn by this world and its demands,

C: But your abundance is eternal and invites us to new ways.

L: Infinite Love, we are careless toward ourselves and one another,

C: But your abundance fills us to overflowing.

L: Reconciling Brother, we are too often selfish and proud,

C: But your abundance calls us to humility in mutual care.

L: Eternally Present One, we are wasteful daydreamers with our resources and gifts,

C: But your abundance instructs us to stand accountable and prepared.

L: Lavishing Giver, so often we are afraid that we will not have enough,

C: But your abundance is extravagant and excessive toward us.

L: Oh Christ, our King, we are stingy and reticent in our care for others,

C: But your abundance compels us toward unrestrained generosity.

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. 140 *"This is the feast..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord God,

C: you made the earth and sustain all life, and still we, like the Israelites, sink into worry and grumble in fear that you will abandon us in times of great need. Remind us that even when our trust falters, you are the God who draws water from stones to quench our thirst and ease our distress. Hold us fast in your promise to help us when we cannot help ourselves so that we may also help those around us. In the name of Jesus and by the power of His Spirit. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *God is Good*
 Change My Heart, Oh God

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee

should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

+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 21,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN # 608 - Softly and Tenderly

+ NICENE CREED pg. 104

THE PRAYERS pg. 143

(As the leader concludes each petition with the words:

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

OFFERING (please pass the pew pads at this time)

SONG BY PRAISE TEAM: *"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"*

OFFERTORY - #182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

MEAL

+ Offering Prayer: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

+The Great Thanksgiving pg. 144

+Words of Institution

+The Lord's Prayer pg. 145 (right hand column)

Communion Hymn: *"Seek Ye First"* (on the screen)

Prayer after Communion: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 #434 - Jesus Shall Reign (vs. 1,2,5)

+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 OCTOBER 1, 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 28,

Tuesday, Philippians 1:15-21,

Wednesday, Judges 16:23-31,

Thursday, Psalm 80:7-15,

Friday, Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, Jeremiah 6:1-10,

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”” – Exodus 17:3

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question— “Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

- What can we learn about God from this moment of giving water to the Israelites in the midst of their grumbling and complaining? (Exodus 17)
- How do we respond when we face scarcity in our lives, whether it be financial, material, or otherwise? Do we grumble and complain, or do we trust in God to provide? (Exodus 17)
- In various settings, which of the two sons are you, and what can you relate to about each son? (Matt 21:28-30)

PRAY: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESS: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. Amen.