

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 10, 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
INTERN

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON
ZACHARY SMIRRISS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 10, 2023 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

#526 God Is Here (v. 1,2,4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P - Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C - Amen.

P - Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
(Silence is kept for reflection)

Steadfast and faithful God,

C - you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,

forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor,

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P - God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

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: O Lord God,

C: enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:

*Everlasting God
The Love of God*

FIRST READING - Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

+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 18,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

OFFERING –

MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM: *Your Love, O Lord*

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 #836 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

+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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

SHARE: What are your highs/lows for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 119:65-72, Teach Me Your Statutes

Tuesday, Romans 13:1-7, Being Subject to Authorities

Wednesday, Matthew 21:18-22, Cursing the Fig Tree

Thursday, John 3:13-17, For God So Loved the World

Friday, Genesis 41:53-42:17, Famine in Egypt

Saturday, Matthew 6:7-15, How to Pray

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”– Matthew 18:20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

- How does God use Ezekiel to warn Israel of the consequences of their behavior? (Ezekiel 33:7)
- In our time, what are works of darkness, and what does the armor of light look like in practice? (Rom 13:12)
- Have you ever seen this pattern of confronting sin work well, and if so what made it work? (Matt 18:15-20)

PRAY: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and 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.