

SUNDAY- OCTOBER 15, 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
ZACH SMIRRIS

ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.*

OPENING HYMN: # 865 - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LITANY FOR A STEWARDSHIP OF MUTUAL CARE

L: We stand now to confess all we lack in the presence of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, whose bounty abolishes need:

(silence for self-examination)

Oh God, we in fear we grumble in our time of need, Holy Spirit, in arrogance we place our hope in status and wealth. 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, we are torn by this world and its demands, we dwell on what we do not have, instead of giving thanks for all you provide.

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

L: Infinite Love, we are careless toward ourselves and one another, we are too often hesitant in our sharing of your blessings.

C: But your abundance fills us to overflowing.

L: Reconciling Brother, we are too often selfish and proud, 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, we are stingy and reticent in our care for others, and in our sharing of your provision.

C: Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

L: Beloved in Christ, in Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven. 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. 140 *"This is the feast..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God,

C: you delight in your Beloved and in the celebration of your children. Your invitation to the Feast extends to all who would come. Agitate those who might impose restrictions or reject your invitation; and embolden us to throw open your doors and widen your table that all may be welcomed, honored, and fed. We pray this in your name, O Triune God, whose love and embrace are sure. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM SONGS: *"Beautiful One"*
 "Do Justice"

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me

in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

+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 22,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Do You Wanna Go Home"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN # 522 - *As We Gather at Your Table*

+ 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: "*Potter's Hand*"

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: # 502 - *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

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 #873 - *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* (vs. 1,2,3,6)

+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 15, 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 34, Prayer for Deliverance

Tuesday, Amos 9:5-15, Destruction and Restoration

Wednesday, Luke 1:1-4, 24:44-53, Luke the Evangelist

Thursday, Psalm 96:1-9, Praise to God the Judge

Friday, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Tending the Flock

Saturday, Isaiah 14:9-11, Downfall of Babylon

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.” – Matthew 22:2

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

- When you pray, “Remember me, O Lord,” what are you hoping for in response from God? (Psa 106:4)
- What can we do to make it more likely God's peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ? (Phil 4:7)
- How do you react to the king's treatment of the man without a wedding robe? (Matt 22:11-14)

PRAY: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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.