

**SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 4, 2024 -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  
INTERIM

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 4, 2024 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00 AM

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

## **PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

*You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude  
for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.*

## **WELCOMING WORD**

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthen the powerless. So, in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

## **OPENING HYMN: #522 - As We Gather at Your Table**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C** - Amen.

**P** - Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of  
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** - Amen.

**P** - Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**C** - **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free  
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word,  
and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left  
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we  
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of  
your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew  
us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk  
in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** - God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been  
saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty  
God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ  
may live in your hearts through faith.

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Everlasting God,

**C: you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Congregational Songs –**     *Above All*  
    *Only You*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave

to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

### **+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)**

**(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**L:** The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 1

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

### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**+L:** The Gospel of the Lord

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

### **CHOIR ANTHEM – *Miracle Worker***

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN #712 – *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service***

**+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 SONG**    *Everlasting God*

**OFFERTORY - #182** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

## **MEAL**

**+ Offering Prayer:** Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup, you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**+The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 144

**+Words of Institution**

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

**Communion Hymn: #617 - We Come to You for Healing, Lord**

**Prayer after Communion:** Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. 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 #886- Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1,2,3,4,6)**

### **+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 FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**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 102:12-28, A Prayer to God the Ruler

**Tuesday,** 2 Kings 8:1-6, The Shunammite Woman's Land Restored

**Wednesday,** Mark 3:7-12, A Multitude at the Lakeside

**Thursday,** Psalm 50:1-6, The Acceptable Sacrifice

**Friday,** 1 Timothy 1:12-20, Gratitude for Mercy

**Saturday,** Luke 19:41-44, Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

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

**"And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." -- Mark 1:17**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

- When was a time God gave you strength to carry on? (Isa 40:31)
- How does Paul's call to put the concerns of others before your own 'rights', compare to our obsession with individual liberty? (1 Cor 9:19)
- What is your "deserted place" where you escape the crowds and/or communicate with God? (Mark 1:35)

**PRAY:** Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. Amen.