

**SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 18, 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  
INTERN

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 18, 2024 | First Sunday in Lent | 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** on Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**OPENING HYMN: # 338 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

## 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.**

**C - Amen**

**C: And also, with you.**

**+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140** *"This is the feast..."*

**C: heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Congregational Songs – *Reign On Me***  
***Cornerstone***

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said

to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **+LENTEN SENTENCE (pg. 142)**

**(sing) Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

L: The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 1

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

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

## **CHOIR ANTHEM – *The Lone Wild Bird***

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN #712 - 319 - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

**+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.”)

## **BENEVOLENCE**

**OFFERING SONG**    *Mention of Your Name*

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

## **MEAL**

**+ Offering Prayer:** Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

**+The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 144

**+Words of Institution**

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

**Communion Hymn: # 779 - Amazing Grace**

**Prayer after Communion:** Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. 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 # 324 - In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

### **+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 18, 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 77, God's Mighty Deeds Recalled

**Tuesday,** 1 Peter 3:8-18a, Suffering for Doing Right

**Wednesday,** Proverbs 30:1-9, Sayings of Agur

**Thursday,** Psalm 22:23-31, Plea for Deliverance from Suffering

**Friday,** Genesis 16:1-6, The Birth of Ishmael

**Saturday,** Mark 8:27-30, Peter's Declaration about Jesus

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

**"He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan"**  
**-- Mark 1:13**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

- Why do you think it matters that God establishes a covenant with all animals as well as humans? (Gen 9:10)
- In what settings and in what ways do you allow God to teach you and lead you? (Psa 25:4, 5, 8, 9)
- The voice from heaven calls Jesus "Beloved." What does Jesus' belovedness mean to you? (Mark 1:11)

**PRAY:** *Heavenly Father, in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**BLESS:** God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. Amen.