

SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 25, 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 25, 2024 | Second 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 *The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #873 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (vs. 1-4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C - Amen.

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

C - **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P - The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:
The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.

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 God,

C: by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:

*Seek Ye First
Cry of My Heart*

FIRST READING - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he

believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

+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 8,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: “The Solid Rock”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Intern Zach Smirris

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: (Insert)

Nearer, My God, to Thee

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

OFFERING –

MUSIC - “Forgiveness” by Praise Team

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: #660 Lift High the Cross

+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 25, 2024

SHARE: What are three things you are grateful for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45. God's Faithfulness to Israel

Tuesday, Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19. The Meaning of Faith

Wednesday, Jeremiah 30:12-22. Restoration for Israel

Thursday, Psalm 19. God's Glory in Creation and the Law

Friday, Acts 7:30-40. Stephen's Speech to the Council

Saturday, Exodus 19:16-25. The Israelites Reach Mount Sinai

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

– Mark 8:34

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

- Abram's new name means "father of many." If God changed your name, what would you want it to mean? (Gen 17:5)
- What helps and hinders you in believing that God is able to do what God has promised? (Rom 4:21)
- In what ways do you sometimes argue with Jesus' priorities and values? Why? What helps you stop? (Mark 8:31-33)

PRAY: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

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