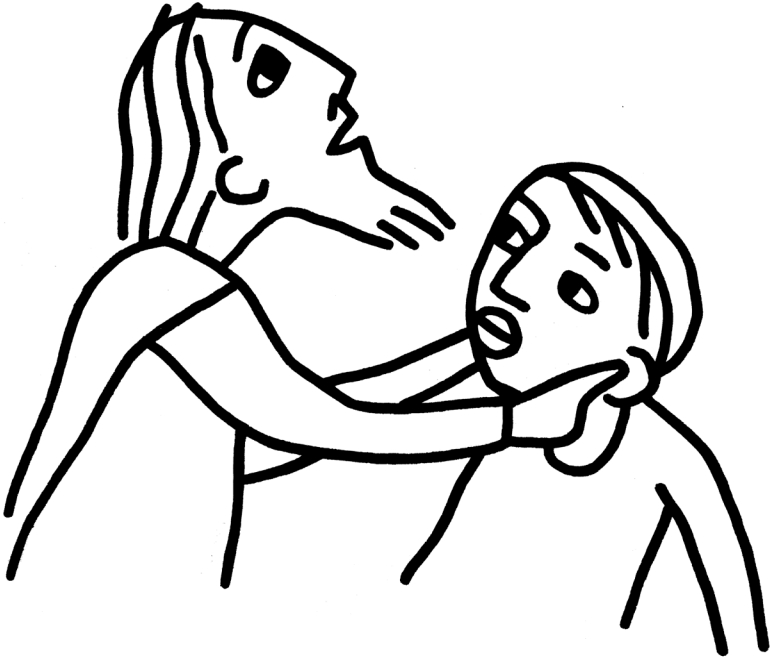


**SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 -9:00 AM**



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love  
with all people.*

MINISTERS  
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON

[ELC@MHTC.NET](mailto:ELC@MHTC.NET) - 608-437-5012

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 | 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | 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** James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

## **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:**

**# 886 - O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C - Amen.**

**L** - Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**L** - God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are 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: Gracious God,

**C: throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:** *Here I Am to Worship*  
*My Life is in You, Lord*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

## SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name

that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**+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 7,

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

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be

opened.”<sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: # 779 - *Amazing Grace***

**+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105**

**+SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING -**

**MUSIC - *All Who Are Thirsty***

**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: # 793 - *Be Thou My Vision***

**+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 8, 2024**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Isaiah 38:10-20, Hezekiah's Illness & Recovery

**Tuesday,** Hebrews 12:3-13, The Example of Jesus

**Wednesday,** Matthew 17:14-21, Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

**Thursday,** Psalm 116:1-9, Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

**Friday,** James 2:17-26, Faith without Works Is Dead

**Saturday,** John 3:13-17, Nicodemus Visits Jesus

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

***"So, she went home, found the child lying on the bed,  
and the demon gone." - Mark 7:30***

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

- What words and actions of hope and encouragement are most conspicuous in your congregation? (Isa 35:4)
- Today I praise God for ... (Ps 146)
- In what ways do your faith and actions draw the attention and curiosity of others? (Mark 7:1)
- Where are the lines drawn in your community when it comes to accepting and treating people as equals? (James 2:1)

**PRAY:** Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.