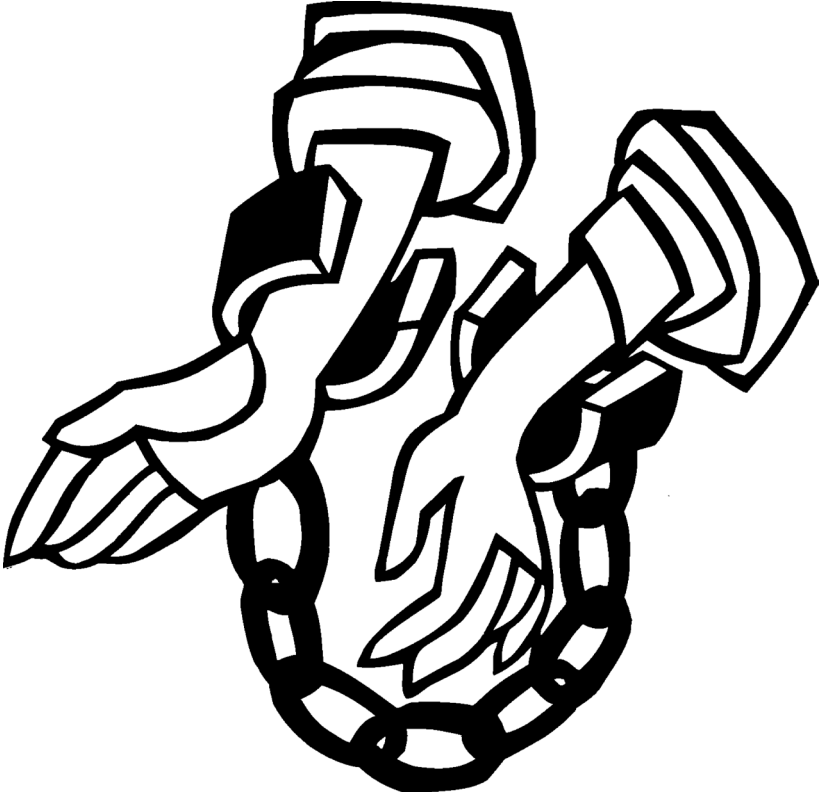


SUNDAY- JANUARY 26, 2025 -9:00 AM



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 - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 26, 2025 | 3rd Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD: *God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

New Patterns of Loving (insert)

(sung to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible")

WORD OF WELCOME – Mark Mostrom

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C: And also, with you.

L: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. (*John 1*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Blessed Lord God,

C: you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. your Word teaches us, calls us, and shapes us, that we will become the wisdom of God and the body of Christ for others. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday may your word turn us toward what is good and holy and just, that all your beloved people are seen, known, and loved by you. May the example of Jesus continue to create words and action of courage in the work and ministry of reaching all. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *Change My Heart, Oh God*
All My Relatives

FIRST READING – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with

understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

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

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 4,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM: "In the Heart of the World"

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

REFLECTION - Adam Mertz & Kim Sailor

HYMN - # 841 - Lift Every Voice and Sing

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. * On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING -

MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM: *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever*

OFFERTORY #186 "Create in me...."

THE PRAYERS - led by Carl Sieg

(As the leader 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 - Sing a New World into Being

(sung to the tune of Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing)

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***“I am God’s child, deserving of love and respect,
and God will use me to change the world.”***

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 JANUARY 26, 2025

SHARE: What are your highs/lows for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 119:89-96, God’s Faithfulness

Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 7:2-12, Paul’s Joy at the Church’s Repentance

Wednesday, Jeremiah 36:27-32, Jeremiah Dictates Another Scroll

Thursday, Psalm 71:1-6, Prayer for Lifelong Protection

Friday, 2 Chronicles 35:20-27, Death of Josiah

Saturday, 2 Chronicles 36:11-21, Reign of Zedekiah

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor”
– Luke 4:18**

Near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

- If these words (Luke 4:14-21) reveal who Jesus is, what words would you use to describe yourself and mission?
- What worship practices do we have in common with the gathering at the Water Gate in Nehemiah 8?
- What in Psalm 19 have you heard in your congregation’s liturgy?

PRAY: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.