

**SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 16, 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

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 16, 2025 | 6<sup>th</sup> 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** Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

**OPENING HYMN: # 520 - Dearest Jesus, at Your Word**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C - Amen.**

**L** - 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.**

**L** - 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.**

**L** - In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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: Living God,

**C: in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:** *Blessed Be Your Name*  
*Better Is One Day*

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

<sup>2</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 6,

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

## **+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 6,

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.<sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."<sup>21</sup> "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled." "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."<sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."<sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.<sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep."<sup>26</sup> "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Blessed are the Pure in Heart"**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN # 725 - When the Poor Ones**

**+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.)"**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG - Blessings**

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

## MEAL

**+ Offering Prayer: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

**+The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 144

**+Words of Institution**

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

**Communion Hymn: # 641 - All Are Welcome**

**Prayer after Communion: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, 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 # 669 - Rise Up, O Saints of God!**

#### +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 FEBRUARY 16, 2025

**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 120, Prayer for Deliverance

**Tuesday,** 2 Corinthians 1:12-19, Postponement of Paul's Visit

**Wednesday,** Jeremiah 22:11-17, Message to the Sons of Josiah

**Thursday,** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, Exhortation to Patience

**Friday,** I John 2:7-17, A New Commandment

**Saturday,** Luke 12:57-59, Settling with Your Opponent

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

**“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.”—Luke 6:20**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

- What promise do you hear from Jesus for your own life? (Luke 6)
- How do we, like the psalmist, tend to the strength of our soul? (Psalm 138:3)
- When in worship are you reminded of how Christ's and your resurrection are bound together? (1 Cor 15:12-20)

**PRAY:** Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. Amen.