

**SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 23, 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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 7<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** *Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

**# 712 - Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** - Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**C - Amen.**

**P** - Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Merciful God,

**C - you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

**P** - God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**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 Lord Jesus,

**C: make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: Do Justice

### Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

## FIRST READING - Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## SECOND READING: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight<sup>l</sup> in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

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.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *"Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace "*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:**

**# 716 - Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**

**+APOSTLES' CREED** pg. 105

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING -**

**Music by Praise Team: *The Way***

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

**THE PRAYERS** (pg. 143)

(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:**

**# 359 - Where Charity and Love Prevail**

**+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.*

*If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb  
please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads  
which are passed during offering.*

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

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

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

**Monday,** Psalm 38, Plea for Healing

**Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33, The Lord's Supper

**Wednesday,** Luke 17:1-4, Sayings of Jesus

**Thursday,** Psalm 99, Praise to God for His Holiness

**Friday,** Acts 10:1-8, Peter and Cornelius

**Saturday,** Deuteronomy 9:15-24, Rebelling against God

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

**“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” – Luke 6:31**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

- Have you heard a modern-day Joseph story in which a relationship was transformed after betrayal? (Gen 45)
- Psalm 37:1-9 tells us not to fret or seek vindication. When is that good advice and when isn't it?
- How do we possibly take to heart, and practice, the Sermon on the Plain in today's violent world? (Luke 6:27-38)

**PRAY:** O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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