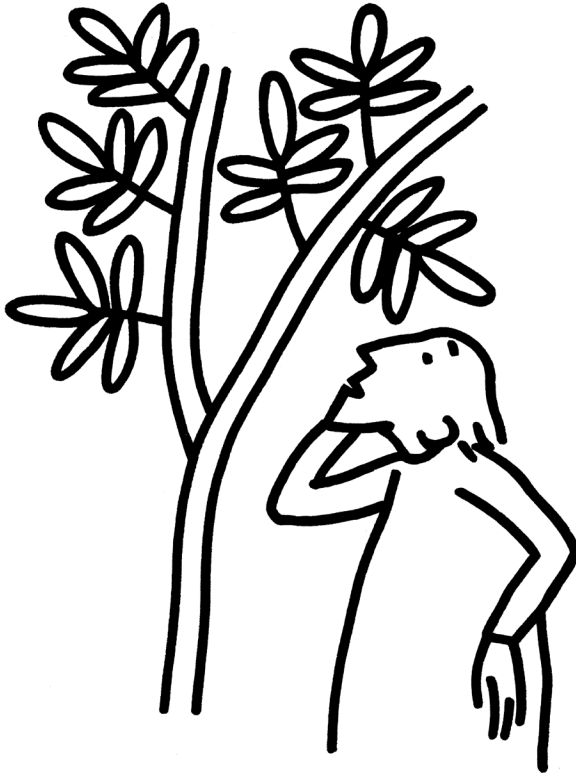


SUNDAY- MARCH 23, 2025 -9:00 AM



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, March 23, 2025 | 3rd 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 warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: # 864 - Praise, My Soul, the Gate of Heaven

BAPTISM OF SAVANNAH KOSA (insert)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God,

C: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *I Believe in Jesus*

You Are My Strength

FIRST READING - Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the

unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play."⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

+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 Luke, Chapter 13,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who

were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Jesus, Friend of Sinners “*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: # 592 - Just As I Am

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING – **Music by Praise Team: Beautiful Savior**
Solo – Chris Underwood

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: # 779 - Amazing Grace

+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 MARCH 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 105:1-15 [16-41] 42, God's Faithfulness to Israel

Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Warnings from Israel's History

Wednesday, Luke 13:22-31, The Narrow Door

Thursday, Psalm 63:1-8, Comfort and Assurance

Friday, Revelation 3:1-6, The Message to Sardis

Saturday, Luke 6:43-45, A Tree and Its Fruit

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” – Luke 13:2

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

- How does the metaphor of fruitfulness speak to you here and from other passages in the Bible? (Luke 13:6-9)
- In what ways do you thirst? For what? What do God's waters, wine and milk look like in your life? (Isa 55:1)
- Do you have glimpses in your life of emotions and experiences like those in Psalm 63? When and where?

PRAY: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.