

**SUNDAY- MARCH 30, 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, March 30, 2025 | 4<sup>th</sup> 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 psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

**# 631 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs.1,2,3)**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C - Amen.**

P - Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**C - you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P - Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering one's home. In Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**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: God of compassion,

**C: you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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:**    *God is Good*  
  *The Potter's Hand*

### FIRST READING - Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

### SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### +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 15,

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “These fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So, he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Coming Home “**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:**

**# 608 - Softly and Tenderly**

**+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING** Music: "Help Me Find It"

Solo - Carl Sieg

**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:**

**# 733 - Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**+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 30, 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 146, Praise for God's Help

**Tuesday,** Isaiah 42:10-21, A Hymn of Praise

**Wednesday,** Matthew 9:27-34, Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

**Thursday,** Psalm 130, Waiting for Divine Redemption

**Friday,** Revelation 11:15-19, The Seventh Trumpet

**Saturday,** Luke 24:36 -53, Jesus Appears to His Disciples

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

**“...for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.” – Luke 15:24**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

- What do you think is the significance of Luke 15:1-2 as an introduction to the parable of the prodigal son?
- What do you think it felt like for the manna to cease? Imagine yourself in that setting. (Josh 5:10-12)
- What does it look like in practice to live “like a horse or a mule, without understanding”? (Psa 32:9)

**PRAY:** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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.