

**SUNDAY- APRIL 27, 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, April 27, 2025 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter | 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** *In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.*

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain (insert)

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P** - Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** - **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**P** - In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C** - **Amen.**

**P** - Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C** - **make us one as you are one.**

**P** - We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C** - **make us one as you are one.**

**P** - Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**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 God of life,

**C: you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit’s breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:**     *“Rock of Ages”*  
  *“To Be Alive”*

## FIRST READING - Acts 5:27-32

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So, it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 20,

**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 John, Chapter 20,

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

## **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Redeeming Love"**

**MESSAGE** Marie Leafblad, Asst. to the Bishop  
South Central Synod of Wisconsin

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: # 376 - "Thine Is the Glory"**

**+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING - Music by Praise Team: "Come to the Cross"**

**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:

# 855 - "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (vs.1,3,4,5)

#### +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 APRIL 27, 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,** Mark 1:1-15, The beginning of the gospel

**Tuesday,** Esther 8:1-17, Destruction of the Jews is averted

**Wednesday,** Luke 12:4-12, The courage to confess Christ

**Thursday,** Psalm 30, My wailing turns to dancing

**Friday,** Isaiah 6:1-4, Isaiah in the presence of God

**Saturday,** Genesis 18:1-8, Abraham and Sarah's hospitality

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

**“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you”  
-John 20:21**

*After his resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples and offers them words of peace and invites them to go out into the world. But Thomas wasn't present and has a hard time believing without the same opportunity to see the risen Lord.*

- What does it look like for Jesus to approach you and say words of peace? (John 20:21)
- What do you need to do and where do you feel as though you are able to authentically see Christ in the world? (John 20:25)
- The books of Acts happen after the resurrection. How is life changed by the Easter promise? (Acts 5)

**PRAY:** O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BLESS:** God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless you now and forever. Amen.