

# **SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2025-5:00 PM** **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love  
with all people.*

## **WELCOMING WORD**

*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.*



## **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.*

**MINISTERS**  
**INTERIM PASTOR**

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**  
**KAREN HOFSTAD**



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Saturday, September 20th, 2025 | | 15th Sunday After Pentecost | 9:00 AM  
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

**PRELUDE** Karen Erickson

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**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.*

L: Merciful God,

**C: We are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.**

**Amen.**

L: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

**+HYMN #676** *Lord, Speak to Us*

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." <sup>7</sup> The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 16.

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

**+GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are shrewder in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> "Whoever

is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE** Pastor Karen Hofstad

**+HYMN #810** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

**+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.”)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY #186** - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**+ OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**+THE LORD'S PRAYER** pg. 145 (right hand column)

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## **COMMUNITY WORD**

### **+BLESSING**

L: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**+HYMN #825** *You Servants of God*

### **+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. 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.”**

*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 SEPTEMBER 21ST, 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 12, A Plea for Help in Evil Times

**Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, All Things to All People

**Wednesday,** Matthew 9:9-13, The Call of Matthew

**Thursday,** Psalm 146, Praise for God's Help

**Friday,** Proverbs 28:3-10, The Peril of the Wicked

**Saturday,** Proverbs 28:11-29, The Wisdom of the Righteous

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

**“You cannot serve God and wealth.”**

**-- Luke 16:13b**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

- What do you feel are legitimate criticisms of your congregation and ministry? How do you respond to them? What actions or shifts have they prompted? (Amos 8:4)
- What is your most fervent prayer for our nation's leaders? The church? Your congregation? A particular concern or issue in your community? (1 Tim 2:1)
- When have you broken a law, rule or social norm in order to be merciful and generous with someone? (Luke 16:1)

**PRAY:** God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. Amen.