

SUNDAY- MARCH 15TH, 2026 -9:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

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

WELCOMING WORD

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.



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
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Lent | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come

+CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GREETING

+KYRIE pg. 147

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS *Open the Eyes of My Heart
Everlasting God*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14

ACCLAMATION pg. 151

(sing) Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

+L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 9.

+C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

+C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *It Is Well With My Soul*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #715 Christ, Be Our Light (vs.1,2,5)
(Since this hymn is new to us, you are encouraged to use the hymnal.)

+NICENE CREED pg. 104

+THE PRAYERS pg. 152

The leader concludes each petition with the words: "Lord in your mercy..."

The people respond: Hear our prayer."

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING PRAISE TEAM *Song of Hope*

+OFFERTORY #184- *Let the Vineyards...*

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING pg. 152

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154 (right hand column)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #779 Amazing Grace

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #886 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs.1,2,4,6)

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect, and God will use me to change the world."

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2026

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, Matthew 1:16, 18-24a, Joseph, and the Birth of Jesus

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

Wednesday, Matthew 9:27-34, Jesus' Acts of Healing

Thursday, Psalm 130, Waiting for Redemption

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

Saturday, Luke 1:26-38, The Birth of Jesus Foretold

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." - John 9:5

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

- What would be your first reaction if you witnessed something miraculous or impossible? (John 9:1-41)
- Do you believe one's faith and following Jesus today requires sacrifices? If so, in what ways? (1 Sam 16:1-13)
- How do you know when something is "good and right and true" – pleasing to God – in the world? (Eph 5:8-14)

PRAY: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.