

**SUNDAY JULY 12TH, 2026 - 9:00 AM**

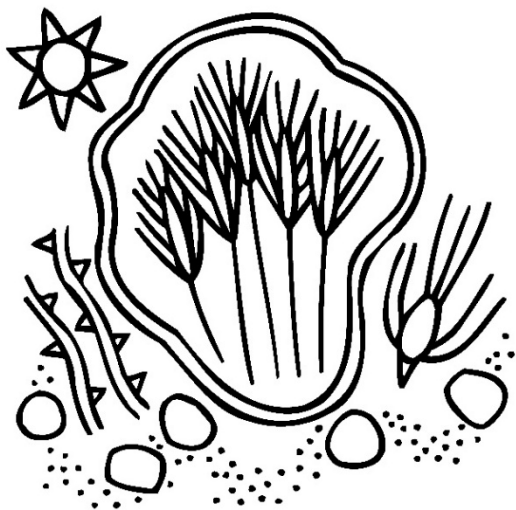
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

**WELCOMING WORD**

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in 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; you are seen. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome, support, and love all children of God.*

MINISTERS  
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
KAREN HOFSTAD



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

## WELCOME

**+GATHERING SONG #510** *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

## +CONFESSION 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, whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

**+SONG OF PRAISE #823** *Praise the Lord! O Heavens*

## +GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## +PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #512 *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

+L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 13.

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

**+GOSPEL**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!" <sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Jennifer Williamson, LSS

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**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #508** *As Rain from the Clouds (vs.1,2)*  
(This hymn is new to us, so you may wish to follow the music in the hymnal. The tune is "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," a Scottish folk song.)

**+THE APOSTLES' CREED** pg. 105

**+THE PRAYERS** pg. 152

The leader concludes each petition with the words: "God of Grace..."

**The people respond: Hear our prayer.**

**+SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY #686** *We Give Thee but Thine Own (vs. 1, 2)*

**+OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**COMMUNITY WORD**

**+BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #547** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

**+DISMISSAL**

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share 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 JULY 12, 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,** Psalm 92, A Psalm of Thanksgiving

**Tuesday,** Ephesians 4:17-5:2, The Old Life and the New

**Wednesday,** Proverbs 11:23-30, Righteousness and Foolishness

**Thursday,** Psalm 86:11-17, Prayer for Help

**Friday,** Hebrews 6:13-20, God's Promise is Certain

**Saturday,** John 20:1-2, 11-18, The Resurrection

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

**"Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"  
-- Matthew 13:8-9**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

How do we see God's Word being accomplished in your life? (Isaiah 55:11)

What does living in the Spirit look like? How do we cultivate our connection to the Spirit? (Rom 8:1-11)

This parable paints a picture of our responses to God. In what way does it depict God? (Matt 13:1-9, 18-23)

**PRAY:** O God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. Amen.

*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.*