

**SUNDAY JULY 5TH, 2026 - 9:00 AM**

**Sixth 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**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation:

*"Come to me, all you that are weary."*

Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.



**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



[ELC@MHTC.NET](mailto:ELC@MHTC.NET) - 608-437-5012

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

## **WELCOME**

**+GATHERING SONG #439** *Soon and Very Soon*

## **+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, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive.**

**We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

**Amen.**

**+SONG OF PRAISE #525** *You Are Holy*

## **+GREETING**

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**

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****Zechariah 9:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**Romans 7:15-25a**

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

+L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 11.

**+C: Glory to you, O Lord.****+GOSPEL****Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Pastor Karen Hofstad

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**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 607 Come, Ye Disconsolate**

**+THE NICENE CREED** pg. 104

**+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**

**OFFERING PRAISE TEAM** *This Good Day*

**+OFFERING RESPONSE #481** *Come to the Table*

**+OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**+WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 781 Children of the Heavenly Father**

**+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

**COMMUNITY WORD**

**+BLESSING**

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, † one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 611 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (vs. 1,2)**

**+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

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 5, 2026

**SHARE:** What are your highs/lows for today?

**READ:** Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Psalm 131, A Song of Quiet Trust

**Tuesday,** Jeremiah 28:10-17, Jeremiah and Hananiah

**Wednesday,** Jeremiah 13:1-11, The Linen Loincloth

**Thursday,** Psalm 65:1-13, Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty

**Friday,** Romans 15:14-21, Paul's Reason for Writing Boldly

**Saturday,** Isaiah 52:1-6, Let Zion Rejoice

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

**“At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; - Matthew 11:25**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

- Can you think of any other ruler, like Jesus, who comes in humility, rather than ruling with armies and weapons? (Zechariah 9:9)
- When you find yourself unable to do the things you know are good, how do you return to God? (Rom 7:15-25)
- What is truly restful? What spiritual practices help you put down your burdens? (Matt 11:16-19, 25-30)

**PRAY:** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, 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.