

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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**Easter 7**

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Truly, God expects Christians to grow and go with the word. As we faithfully administer God's means of grace—the gospel in word and sacraments—the Holy Spirit works to create and sustain faith, to build the church...to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation.

We witness these truths today in today's Scripture lessons. In Acts we hear how the disciples called a replacement for the departed Judas Iscariot. In John's first epistle, this writer of love speaks of how God's love for us moves us to specifically show love to others—share God's love centered on Jesus' redeeming work. In the gospel, John records Jesus' High Priestly prayer; the Savior asks His heavenly Father to bless His believers with unity, a unity shared by Jesus and His Father and one based on unity of purpose that leads to eternal life.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 392, 236, 313 (1,2), 175 (1,3,5)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Acts 1:15-26.* The eleven disciples select a replacement for Judas. Under God's direction, they regroup as a full company of twelve while they wait to begin their work as witnesses of the resurrection and ascension.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 8.* We see the majesty of God in His creation and in the universal rule of His Son (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: 1 John 4:13-21.* We bear witness to, rely on, and live in the God Who is love. It is only right, therefore, that we love one another. If we do not, then we do not love God nor truly show His love for us.

*Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you." Alleluia. (John 14:18, EHV)*

*Gospel: John 17:11b-19.* Our High Priest prays for His disciples as He looks ahead to the time when He will no longer be with them. He asks that the Father would protect them and set them apart as His own. The tool by which He will do that is the Word.

*Sermon: 1 John 4:13-21*

*Theme - "God's Perfect Love Drives Out Fear"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First lesson: What important task do we see the disciples fulfilling?

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- First lesson: What are your thoughts on the disciple's "Divine Call" process? What thought does **Proverbs 16:33** offer concerning such a practice?
- Epistle: How does John through the Holy Spirit "define" what true love is?
- Epistle: What practical application does John make about love?
- Gospel: This section of Scripture is the middle third of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. What is the main thought in this section of Jesus' prayer?
- Gospel: What is the tool God gives to protect, sanctify and keep us as Jesus' disciples?

### Announcements:

**Holy Communion** - We celebrate the Lord's Supper because Jesus instructed us to do so, and God offers us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through it (Matthew 26:28). We believe the Bible's teaching that receiving the Sacrament together is a way of expressing unity in our beliefs as one body (1 Corinthians 10:17). We therefore respectfully ask that guests who are not members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, refrain from communing here until becoming familiar with our beliefs and express agreement. We in no way imply that you are not a Christian or are not "good enough" for us. God's Word teaches us to regard communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. In communion we publicly confess that we agree in all that we teach and confess on the basis of the Bible (Matthew 28:20, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 10:17). We pray that you understand and will respect this practice of Close Communion. We encourage you to seek more information about the confession that unites us and would love to meet with you if you have questions regarding Close Communion.

**Confirmation** - Jesus' continued blessings to Elizabeth Spens, who on this day gave honor and glory to her Savior, promising to remain faithful to Him all her life. We welcome her on this day as a communicant member of our church family. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

**Acts 1:15-26** - In those days, when the group there numbered about 120 people, Peter stood up among the brothers and said, "Gentlemen, brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David about Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. Judas was counted as one of us and was given a share in this ministry. "Now this man acquired a field with what he was paid for his wicked act. When he fell headfirst, his middle burst open, and all his intestines spilled out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, and so in their own language that field was called Akeldema, which means Field of Blood. Indeed, it is written in the book of Psalms: May his residence be deserted. Let there be no one dwelling in it. And, let someone else take his position. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us

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during the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from his baptism by John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection.” They proposed two: Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” Then they assigned lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias. So, he was counted with the eleven apostles. (EHV™)

**1 John 4:13-21** – This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us. God is love. Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this way his love has been brought to its goal among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are just like Jesus. There is no fear in love, but complete love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who continues to be afraid has not been brought to the goal in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother. (EHV™)

**John 17:11b-21** – “Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. “But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. “Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.” (EHV™)