

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 2

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We have now officially entered the Pentecost season. Pentecost Sunday emphasized how the Holy Spirit poured out special gifts on His church to grow the church. We, although cracked, clay jars, use the powerful gifts of God's word and sacraments to grow God's church—the Spirit's means to bring people into God's kingdom of grace.

Today, we hear how Jesus came in grace as our "Sabbath LORD." Remember, God instructed His Old Testament believers to "keep the Sabbath Day holy." According to Israel's Ceremonial Law that meant they could do no "work" on the seventh day to honor the God who "rested" after six days of creating. But the Sabbath Day foreshadowed the spiritual, eternal rest Christ would bring through His saving work—as the epistle to the Hebrews teaches as well as St. Paul in **Colossians 2:16-17**.

Truly, Jesus has set us free from having to save ourselves by keeping any law of God. In principle we "keep the Sabbath Day holy" every time we come to worship, confess our sins and receive with believing hearts Jesus' forgiveness as proclaimed in the gospel.

In fact, any time we turn to Jesus' gospel, whether at a worship service with fellow believers or in private study, we hear His promise: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...rest for your souls" (**Matthew 11:28-29**).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 413, 489, 239 (1,3), 592

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**. It is not mere idleness that is encouraged in the third commandment. The ultimate purpose of the Sabbath is the contemplation of LORD's mighty works and acts. He made us and made us His own to praise and share His marvelous acts of salvation!

Psalms of the Day: **Psalms 126**. There is no better response to the LORD's saving acts than to acknowledge them and worship Him for them in the company of His believers (*Supplement*).

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 4:5-12**. If the children of Israel had reason to come together and hear of the mighty acts of God, how much more reason we have to do the same. For we hear of Christ, the Savior from the slavery to sin and death. And in hearing the effective word of the gospel, we receive the light from God that preserves us in this life and will raise us up on the last day to worship Him, our Savior, for eternity.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Your words are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia. (Psalm 119:105, EHV)

Gospel: **Mark 2:23-28**. The Pharisees missed all of the joy that God wanted to give them on the Sabbath. And why? They did not understand the law they professed to know and love so well, nor God's own commentary on it in the example of David. Their purpose was to concentrate on their own doing and not doing. God's purpose was to focus our attention on Him and on His work for us. If we, like them, despise His Word, we too will miss its saving benefit and without that Word fall into error and unbelief.

Sermon: **2 Corinthians 4:5-12**

Theme - "We Have This Treasure In Jars Of Clay"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: In this section of Scripture, God through Moses restates the Third Commandment in this second giving of the law at the end of Israel's wilderness wanderings. What would be the motivation for the Israelites and well as us for "keeping the Sabbath Day holy?"
- Epistle: What is the good news of Christ referred to in Paul's words to the Corinthians?
- Epistle: What's Paul's point in using the fragile clay jar imagery?
- Gospel: How does Jesus redefine what "work" means when discussing the Sabbath Law with the Pharisees?
- Gospel: What does Jesus mean when He calls Himself the "LORD of the Sabbath?"

Announcements:

+ **Bible Class:** Please join us every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. as we study the Psalms!

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.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 – Observe the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy, just as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you are to serve and

perform all of your regular work, but the seventh day is a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. You are not to do any regular work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock or the alien who resides inside your gates, in order that your male servant and your female servant may rest like you. Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to keep the day of rest. (EHV™)

2 Corinthians 4:5-12 – Indeed, we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For the God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ. We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you. (EHV™)

Mark 2:23-28 – Once on a Sabbath day, Jesus was passing through the grain fields, and his disciples began to pick heads of grain as they walked along. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?” He replied to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry (he and his companions)? He entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the Bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for anyone to eat, except for the priests. He also gave some to his companions.” Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So, the Son of Man is the Lord even of the Sabbath.” (EHV™)