

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 8

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With this Sunday, the emphasis in the readings for the day begins to shift.

From Holy Trinity Sunday through the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, the emphasis has been on the greatness and the power of God's grace in the gospel. Beginning with this Sunday, there is more of a focus on a person's response to the word of God—while at the same time never neglecting the core gospel truth, which arouses the proper response.

This Sunday's readings center our attention on the holy office of the ministry, as the divinely established means for the public proclamation of the gospel. God sends His messengers as blessings to His church, and as long as they faithfully proclaim His word, the hearers are to listen to them as if listening to God Himself (Luke 10:16). What great blessings God has in store for those who hear the word and by the power of the gospel receive both messenger and message as sent from God!

Truly, God's ministry isn't about the messenger; it's about the message of the messenger. God expects all His messengers to faithfully proclaim His word. Through that word alone the Holy Spirit—when and where He wills—calls sinners to repentance and faith in the message of God's grace in Jesus.

May God send us more faithful messengers, especially when so many continue to turn from the truth of God's word. May God also bless us with faithful people who “*hold to the teachings of Scripture*” (John 8:31).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 191, 226 (1-5), 309 (1, 3), “I Love To Tell The Story” (insert)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Amos 7:10-15. Our Lutheran Confessions repeatedly assert: No one should preach who has not been properly called. Amos, together with the other prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament, had immediate calls from the LORD. Our pastors and teachers have mediate calls from the same LORD. Pastors do well to remember and appreciate the saving work given them by the LORD through the call; hearers do well to listen to the LORD's word and give thanks to God that He cares enough for them to send His servants into their midst with that word.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 78. The psalmist summarized the LORD's gracious and mighty deeds for the rescue of His people, and their rebellious response to the word preached to them by His servants the prophets. God always keeps His word, both the words that threaten and the words that promise; He

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remains faithful, even if all people are found untrue (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14. God's grace relating to His doctrine of election remains a mystery to flawed and sin-infected human logic. God, however, reveals it and directs His preachers to proclaim it for our comfort. In His mysterious grace, God chose is in Jesus. How do we know? God has redeemed me by Jesus' blood, directed HIStory that we would hear that gospel truth and believe it—as accomplished by the Holy Spirit's working in baptism and the gospel message.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so you can obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14, EHV)

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13. Mark centers our attention on trusting in the Lord, who calls to repentance, and His gracious-grounded forgiveness to those who turn to Him. Jesus sends them out His messengers under the banner of trusting His promise for Him to provide for their physical needs and to be the power source behind their eternal life changing message.

Sermon: Mark 6:7-13

Theme - “Called By Grace To Call To Grace”

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What was Amos' occupation when the LORD called him to be His prophet? (**Amos 7:14**)
- Old Testament: Martin Luther said of the book of Amos, “Of all the prophets, Amos has the most law and the least gospel.” Thoughts?
- Epistle: In this section of Scripture, Paul discusses the Bible's teaching on the doctrine of election. What serves as the basis for those elected by God for salvation? (See vv.4-8; 11-14)
- Epistle: Agree or Disagree: The doctrine of election is meant for our comfort and not to pacify our human curiosity or reason.
- Gospel: What point is Jesus emphasizing to His disciples by literally sending them on their way with nothing but the authority of the word of God?

Announcements:

+ **Please** join us for Sunday morning Bible class at 8:00 a.m. as we continue to study the Book of Psalms.

+ **Thanks** to all who helped in the planning and carrying out of last Saturday's “Praise in the Park” service.

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

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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.

Amos 7:10-15 – Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to endure all of his words. This is what Amos says: “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go into exile away from its own soil.” Then Amaziah said to Amos, “You seer, get out of here! Flee to the land of Judah. You may eat food and prophesy there. But you must never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the sanctuary of the king and the national temple.” Then Amos responded to Amaziah: I was not a prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet. Rather, I was a sheep breeder and I took care of sycamore fig trees. But the LORD took me from tending flocks, and the LORD said to me, “Go, prophesy to my people Israel.” (EHV™)

Ephesians 1:3-14 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves. In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ. In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God’s own possession, so that his glory would be praised. (EHV™)

Mark 6:7-13 – Jesus called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their money belts. They were to put on sandals but not to wear two coats. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that area. Any place that will not receive you or listen to you, as you leave there, shake off the dust that is under your feet as a testimony against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They also drove out many demons. They anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. (EHV™)