

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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## Pentecost 9

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Many describe the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost as "Orthodoxy Sunday." In this word we see "ortho," which in the original Greek means "straight." Hence, when one wants to straighten out teeth, one visits the orthodontist. From a religious standpoint, the word "orthodox" implies "following the straight truth of Scripture." Therefore, we describe churches that faithfully hold to Scripture and teach and practice the truth of Scripture as "orthodox" church bodies.

The readings for this Sunday focus on warnings against false doctrine and practice or "heterodox" beliefs and practices. These readings encourage us to hold fast to pure doctrine and practice, as Jesus said His true disciples would do (John 8:31).

Last Sunday the word of God called us to receive God's messengers as long as their message comes from the truth of God's word. This Sunday our readings urge both preachers and hearers to see to it that the message is indeed from the word of God, that both preacher and hearer are faithful to the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 109, "Matins."

Hymns: 211 (1-4), 197, 8, 211 (5-6)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:1-6.* We hear the LORD's warning to the unfaithful to their shepherd calling. Whether intentional or not, they do terrible damage to the flock with their false teaching. The LORD will judge them for their false teaching. May the LORD bless us with faithful shepherds who pasture the flock with the righteousness of Christ given in His pure word and a flock that delights in the pure word alone and refuses to settle for less.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 23.* The "Shepherd's Psalm" remains a favorite prayer of quiet confidence and in the grace-filled providence of the LORD that endures in time and to eternity. What is the source of such confidence and trust? The word of God in all its truth and purity! Anything less will disturb or destroy that joyful trust created by the word. (CW pg.72).

*Epistle: Ephesians 2:13-22.* Jesus has effected a reconciliation for us that was made at the cost of His own blood. He wants us to know exactly the cause, cost and the benefit of that reconciliation. That truth of reconciliation is the foundation upon which God's church stands or falls; it is the truth the apostles and prophets proclaimed...all built on Jesus, the Cornerstone of our faith and salvation!

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. "My Word will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it." Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:11b cf. EHV)  
*Gospel: Mark 6:30-34.* Mark shares an excellent example to imitate based on Jesus' apostles. May we always speak the truth of Scripture and unashamedly witness Jesus to all.

*Sermon: Ephesians 2:13-22*

*Theme - "We Have Divine Access"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: The LORD speaks to the supposed "shepherds" of His people. Despite their unfaithfulness, what does the LORD promise?
- Old Testament: Who is the ultimate fulfillment of the LORD's promise in verse 5? (See **Isaiah 9:7; 11:1**)
- Epistle: What's the meaning of the word "reconcile?"
- Epistle: How does Paul use this term, reconcile, in this section of Scripture?
- Epistle: Some argue that Christ built His Church on Peter and not on Peter's confession about who Jesus is—as recorded in Matthew 16:13-18. EVEN IF that were true, upon whom does the Apostle Paul say the apostles and prophets build the foundation of the Church (**v.20**)?
- Gospel: What does **verse 34** tell us about our Savior when it came to doing mission work?
- Gospel: What does the phrase mean when Mark describes the crowds coming to Jesus as "sheep without a shepherd?"

### Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00. We are currently studying various psalms.

**Jeremiah 23:1-6** – Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the LORD. Therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who shepherd my people. You have scattered my flock. You have driven them away. You have not taken care of them, but I will certainly take care of you, because of the evil things you have done, declares the LORD. I will gather what is left of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their pastures. They will be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing, declares the LORD. Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign

wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (EHV™)

**Ephesians 2:13-22** – But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them when he abolished the law of commandments and regulations in his flesh. He did this to create in himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. And he did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (EHV™)

**Mark 6:30-34** – The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” For there were so many people coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. But many people saw them leave and knew where they were going. They ran there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things. (EHV™)