

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Human reason would agree that if anyone had justified cause to complain and be discouraged, it would be God's prophet Elijah. Wicked King Ahab of Israel, with his scheming equally evil Queen Jezebel, threatened Elijah. Elijah faithfully proclaimed the truth of God's word verses the king and queen's idolatrous institution and practice of Baal worship. The LORD though Elijah won a great victory for the truth of God's kingdom and the 7,000 faithful Christians in Israel verses the false prophets of the false god Baal (1 Kings 19:18).

As chapter 19 begins, Elijah faces a new challenge in his ministry: "Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets [false prophets of Baal] with the sword. So, Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, 'May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them'" (vv.1-2). Fearing for his life and on the run, Elijah despairs of his life and sees no value in continuing his ministry as the LORD's prophet.

As modern-day Christians, we experience trials and tribulations in various ways because of our Christian faith as society as a whole continues to drift farther away from the truth of God's word. It may happen in the near future that verbal persecution will become physical persecution. What do we do? God's word compels us to be faithful to our LORD. What does that look like practically? We "trust God above all," and live our Christian faith, and speak/witness God's truth in love...all motivated by what God has done for us and has promised us now and into eternity through our Jesus' saving work.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 23 (1-3), 364, 326 (1), 23 (4)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:3-8. The LORD has work for Elijah to carry out and lays on His prophet no more than mortal Elijah can bear, despite Elijah's complaint to the contrary. But when the LORD calls to do the humanly impossible, to continue in the face of such adversity and persecution, God gives Elijah a powerful sign of providential care and controls the outcome with divine certainty.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 34. "Taste and see!" Has this not always been the LORD's way with us? At times as believers we are weak and perishing; nevertheless, we live to praise our God who saves us and strengthens us through His word (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Ephesians 4:30-5:2. It was an easy thing for Elijah to go 40 days and nights compared to what God calls us to do in this reading. Not one of these works comes

naturally; all of them are impossible for natural man. But see how the gospel encourages and motivates us to want to do these humanly impossible things? The Holy Spirit speaks of our redemption as already fully accomplished; the love of Christ for us in accomplishing that salvation spurs us on to want and then to strive after this beautiful impossibility: to be imitators of God.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1, EHV)

Gospel: John 6:41-51. How humanly reasonable the enemies of Jesus in the criticism of his words! For here Jesus calls for the most impossible thing of all: faith, the quiet trust that He is truly God's Son and our Savior who keeps all of His word, even the promise to raise us up from the dead. Fallen reason shouts: "It cannot be!" Superficial observation and experience quickly agree. Jesus is so lowly in outward appearance, so undistinguished, even contemptible, in His human parentage. But behold the miracle! He bids us believe; the Father draws us to the Son by the words of the Son; and now, fed by the Bread of Life, we trust His promise and await the glorious day of our resurrection!

Sermon: 1 Kings 19:3-8

Theme - "The LORD Remains Our Strength In Discouragement"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How does the LORD demonstrate to Elijah that although—humanely speaking—He gave him an impossible mission, the LORD remained in control and would provide blessing?
- Epistle: According to Paul, how are Christians able to be "imitators" of God?
- Gospel: Why did the Jews grumble against Jesus when He referred to Himself as "The Bread Of Life?"
- Gospel: Some incorrectly think that this section of Scripture is a reference to Holy Communion. In this analogy of "eating Jesus' flesh and drinking Jesus' blood," what is Jesus' point based on the context of this section of Scripture?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. as we study the Book of 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.

1 Kings 19:3-8 – Elijah was afraid, and he ran for his life. He went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. There he sat down under a broom tree, where he prayed that he would die. He said, “I’ve had enough, LORD. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” Then he lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree. Suddenly an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” Then he looked around, and near his head there was a loaf of bread baking on coals and a jar of water, so he ate and drank, and then he lay down again. Then the angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank. Then, with the strength gained from that food he walked for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. (EHV™)

Ephesians 4:30-5:2 – Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one other, just as God in Christ has forgiven us. Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (EHV™)

John 6:41-51 – So the Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They asked, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the Last Day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. I am not saying that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He is the one who has seen the Father. Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me has eternal life. “I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (EHV™)