

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6134 US 23 North, Rogers City, MI 49779

(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Pastor Jeffery J. Luplow

Organist: Mrs. Diane Smuda

Pentecost 17

September 19, 2021

Martin Luther wrote much about the “Theology of the Cross” vs. the “Theology of Glory.” What’s the difference? Some falsely preach and teach that if you are truly a Christian, God will make you “successful” in life.

But sin and its suffering effect is part of living in this world. Moreover, Jesus’ kingdom of glory is “*not of this world*” (**John 18:36**). “*In this life you will have trouble*” (**John 16:33; Acts 14:22**), Jesus said. We see this truth in how our Savior—the perfect God-man—had to suffer and die, although He was innocent of any sin.

Nevertheless, Jesus assures His believers: “*But take heart I have overcome the [sinful] world*” (**John 16:33**). While Christians still experience the consequences of sin, which are troubles and eventual death (**Romans 6:23**), Jesus won eternal victory over sin and death by His redeeming work (**Romans 4:25; John 14:19**). That’s why Paul assured that despite sin’s troubles in this life: “*...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him whom loved us*” (**Romans 8:37**).

What an important reminder for us as individuals and as the church. Those who expect to see outward success in the preaching of the gospel tend to despair when they encounter “failure.” Jesus measures “success,” however, by how faithfully His believers proclaim His word and rightly administer His sacraments. That’s why in this life we imitate Jesus in His state of humiliation and not His state of exaltation. That’s the “Theology of the Cross” vs. the “Theology of Glory.”

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 587, (1-3), 422, 316 & 317 (1-2), 587 (4)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-10. Jesus Himself is the example of patient endurance in suffering. He persevered by listening to His Father’s word and obeyed it perfectly. What was the outcome of His perfect obedience and suffering? In His resurrection He was triumphant both in achieving the divinely ordained goal of our redemption and in deliverance from all sorrow and pain.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 116. In the day when despair threatens, Christians can sing confidently of the salvation of our God. For He has rescued in times past; He will rescue yet again, even if that rescue must wait to the hour of death and transfer to heaven. (*Supplement*).

Epistle: James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18. God uses the trials of the poor and needy to

test the faith those who love Him. If we honor only those who are wealthy, we are not imitating God who has chosen us helpless and absolutely needy ones as heirs of salvation. If by our works we serve the lowly and the destitute, who cannot repay or help us, then we reflect and confess before the world a living faith that imitates its divine source.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4, EHV)

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35. Even the one who is God Incarnate expected to suffer; He embraced it. For by it He would enter into His glory, namely, the glory of His office as our Savior. Jesus suffered the cross to pay for our sins; we suffer the cross because we follow Him. The devil tempts us to expect otherwise. To seek or expect escape from our cross ends in denial of His cross and its saving benefit.

Sermon: Mark 8:27-35

Theme - “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Where did Isaiah point the LORD’s people for comfort, when facing the trials and tribulations associated with living in a sin-fallen world? (**Isaiah 54:10** serves as a wonderful gospel promise of comfort for Christians to memorize.)
- Old Testament: Who ultimately served as a perfect example of trusting God, despite the sufferings of this sinful world? (Review **Isaiah 53:1-8**.)
- Epistle: James reminds God’s people that they are to be impartial. Explain how James establishes what favoritism is and isn’t?
- Gospel: According to what Jesus points out here, how would we define the Christian’s cross?

Announcements:

+ Sunday school 12:00-12:30 p.m.

+ Bible class 12:00-12:30 p.m. in the church basement. We will study selected Psalms.

+ Confirmation class – Mondays from 3-5 p.m.

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.

Isaiah 54:4-10 – The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. Look, the LORD God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them. Who among you worships the LORD and listens to the voice of his servant? Anyone who walks in darkness and who has no bright light—let him trust in the name of the LORD, and let him lean on his God. (EHV™)

James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18 – My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. For example, suppose a man enters your worship assembly wearing gold rings and fine clothing, and a poor man also enters wearing filthy clothing. If you look with favor on the man wearing fine clothing and say, “Sit here in this good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there” or “Sit down here at my feet,” have you not made a distinction among yourselves and become judges with evil opinions? Listen, my dear brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him? However, if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, since you are convicted by this law as transgressors. In fact, whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point has become guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says that he has faith but has no works? Such “faith” cannot save him, can it? If a brother or sister needs clothes and lacks daily food and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but does not give them what their body needs, what good is it? So also, such “faith,” if it is alone and has no works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (EHV™)

Mark 8:27-35 – Jesus went away with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They told him, “John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say one of the prophets.” “But who do you say I am?” he asked them. Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men.” He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (EHV™)