

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 21

October 17, 2021

Dr. Martin Luther once stated that the highest art form in theology is the ability to properly distinguish between the two main doctrines (teachings) of Scripture, namely, the law and the gospel. Luther believed that whoever could faithfully do so should receive recognition as a “doctor” of theology. (There is a book compiled of Dr. C.F.W Walther’s lectures entitled, “The Proper Distinction Between Law And Gospel.” This book serves as a good resource on this subject.)

In our Scripture lessons today, we see faithful examples of presenting the law and proclaiming the gospel. We remember that the law “shows us our sins,” while the gospel “shows us our Savior” from sin. Confusing the two either leads people to falsely think that they can save themselves by what they do for God instead of trusting in Jesus alone for salvation, or to wrongly conclude that God doesn’t take sin seriously; He won’t really punish sin and therefore there is no need to repent. God grant that we always see our sins and need for a Savior through the law, and find comfort and confidence in the good news of the gospel, which proclaims all Jesus did to freely save us from sin.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: Amazing Grace (Insert Sheet), 227 (1, 3, 5-6), 426 (1, 5), 160 (1, 8)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15. God takes his law seriously, and woe to that mere mortal who does not likewise take it seriously. The works of the wicked flow from a heart that is wicked, that hates righteousness and loves evil. Already in this life God gives hints and foretastes of His judgment, when He frustrates the plans of the one who lives only for this life and whose conduct is according to the standard of: “What’s in it for me?” When we hate correction and then taste failure, may we fly to our Lord for mercy and pardon!

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 90. How foolish to live only for this life. It flies away in an instant; eternity never ends. Christians wisely live with eternity in view, mindful of the final verdict of God over our lives. (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6. How shall we endure the judgment of God? We are frail and have been unfaithful. But Christ was faithful in every respect! By grace, He has chosen to make us members of his household! As we prepare for Judgment Day and/or our earthly end, let us hold firmly to Jesus and His saving work that gifts us with eternal life.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. This is the LORD! We waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!” Alleluia. (Isaiah 25:9b, EHV)

Gospel: Mark 10:17-27. How tragic! This young man devoted himself to God’s law, thinking he could keep it to save himself. The disciples, too, spent years at Jesus’ side listening to what He taught. Yet, they too relied on the law, as evidenced in their question: “Who then can be saved?” or, “How can anyone save self?” Truly, Jesus crushes all self-righteousness and pride as He pointed out that all of us fail to love God above all—keeping the First Commandment. All need to understand that God does the humanly impossible. What we could never do to save ourselves, Jesus did for us and gave it to us by His saving grace.

Sermon: Mark 10:17-27

Theme - “God Makes The Humanly Impossible Divinely Possible”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: In which verses does Amos present law and proclaim gospel?
- Old Testament: What’s the difference between presenting and proclaiming?
- Old Testament: According to verse 14, what did the people falsely conclude about themselves?
- Old Testament: What examples come to mind in our day of how people think they are “right” with God but in reality aren’t?
- Epistle: How is this statement true? “To forsake Jesus brings far more terrible results than to forsake Moses.”
- Gospel: In this Masterful execution of law and gospel, what’s Jesus’ point to this work-righteous young man when He says: “*Why do you call me good? ...no one is good—except God alone.*”
- Gospel: In verse 21, how did Jesus demonstrate that He is true God (see **1 Samuel 16:7** for a hint)?
- Gospel: What’s Jesus’ point in using the illustration in verse 25? There, Jesus makes this thought-provoking statement: “*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.*”

Announcements:

+ Sunday school 8-8:40 a.m.

+ Bible class 8-8:30 a.m. We will be studying the book of 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.

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 – Seek the LORD and live, or he will rush upon the house of Joseph like fire. The fire will consume, and no one will extinguish it for Bethel. There are some who turn justice into wormwood, who throw righteousness to the ground. There are those who hate an arbitrator in the city gate. They despise anyone who speaks honestly. That is why you trample on the poor, and you collect taxes on their grain. You have built houses of cut stones, but you will not live in them. You have planted choice vineyards, but you will not drink their wine. For I know that your rebellious deeds are many, and your sins are numerous, you who are enemies of a righteous man, you who take bribes. They thrust away needy people in the city gate. That is why a prudent man will be silent in that time, because it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, so that you may live, and then it will be like this for you: The LORD, the God of Armies, will be with you, as you claim. Hate evil and love good. Establish justice in the city gate. Perhaps the LORD, the God of Armies, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. (EHV™)

Hebrews 3:1-6 – Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything. Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end. (EHV™)

Mark 10:17-27 – As Jesus was setting out on a journey, one man ran up to him and knelt in front of him. He asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God. You know the commandments. 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.'" The man replied, "Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a child." Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he looked sad and went away grieving, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus told them again, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." They were even more astonished and said to one another, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For people, it is impossible, but not for God, because all things are possible for God." (EHV™)