

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

Last Judgment

November 7, 2021

The Broadway musical writer, George Gershwin, once commented, “The things that you’re liable to read in the Bible: it ain’t necessarily so.” What can we learn from such an opinion? To this day people think in their sinfulness that the solution to sin and God is to deny them or at least minimize their significance. Regardless of what man concludes, reasons and thinks, however, all remain “liable” to God for their debt of sin.

As the church year draws to a close, the thought of Christ’s return on the Last Day to judge the world comes to the forefront of our Scripture lessons. Jesus will return someday to “judge the living and the dead” as we confess in the Apostles’ Creed. Some deny this reality; others wait in terror.

As God’s people, however, we lift up our heads in anticipation as our final redemption draws near. We don’t have to deny God or be afraid of Jesus. Jesus came to win salvation for us by fulfilling the demands of God’s holy law for perfection, suffering and dying on the cross to pay for all sin and rising victoriously from death to assure He conquered our sin and defeated death.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 Common Service (“Rite Two”) communion

Hymns: 160 (1-6), 49 (1-5), 239 (1), 160 (7-8)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Malachi 4:1-2a. What dread, what horror there is stored up for those who despise God’s gracious Word! All that they worshiped will perish and be seen for the nothing it always was; the evildoer will be able to do nothing to stop God’s just judgment. But what Joy there is for those who fear the LORD and await the Sun of Righteousness, whose rays confer the healing that only righteousness can give: innocence for guilt...life for death. With joy we look forward to that final redemption.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 90. There is nothing melancholic or morbid about our contemplating death and judgment. Those realities flee like a shadow as Christians focus on the only constant in life, namely, our gracious Savior and His life-giving word. Why then fret over the passing of time, of things, of life itself? By God’s grace we possess what endures forever. (CW pg.99).

Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28. The key to our certainty of heaven is in the hands of our Great High Priest. How do we know that death and judgment will be blessed and happy for us? We know with certainty because it was for our forgiveness our Jesus came in the first place; it was for our eternal happiness that He has entered into His glory to effectually intercede for us.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matthew 24:42, EHV)

Gospel: John 5:19-24. Jesus assures that there is a happy harmony between Himself and His Father in everything. Therefore, we need not fear that what He has said might be contradicted by His Father. Why? The Father loves the incarnate Son so much that everything has already been handed over to Him. What a delight and a joy now, in the hour of our death, and on the day of judgment to trust the Son of God who has assured us life and won it for us.

Sermon: John 5:19-24

Theme - “Honor The Son As The Father”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: On Judgment Day when the Lord returns, what is the result for the unbeliever and the believer?
- Epistle: According to God’s holy writer of Hebrews, how many times did Christ have to sacrifice Himself for sin?
- Epistle: Although the writer is stressing the complete, finished work of Christ’s atonement for sin, what does verse 27 also indicate about those who might think God will give people a “second chance” to get to heaven after they face judgment?
- Gospel: How does Jesus stress that He and His Father are united in will?
- Gospel: What are the “*greater things*” of which Jesus makes reference to in verse 20? (See 1 Corinthians 15)

Gospel: How do we “*honor the Son as we honor the Father?*”

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 – Friday 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.

Malachi 4:1-2a – Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. (EHV™)

Hebrews 9:24-28 – For Christ did not enter a handmade sanctuary, a representation of the true sanctuary. Instead, he entered into heaven itself, now to appear before God on our behalf. And he did not enter to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, he would have needed to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once and for all, at the climax of the ages, in order to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And, just as it is appointed for people to die only once and after this comes the judgment, so also Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time—without sin—to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him. (EHV™)

John 5:19-24 – Jesus answered them directly, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. Indeed, the Son does exactly what the Father does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. And he will show him even greater works than these so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to those he wishes. “In fact, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He is not going to come into judgment but has crossed over from death to life. (EHV™)