

# 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

**Advent 4**

**December 19, 2021**

Every Sunday, we speak about Jesus' *passive obedience*, that is, that He came here to suffer and die on the cross to pay for sin. But we must also present Scripture's two-fold nature of Jesus' saving work. Jesus also had to obey the demands of God's holy law perfectly as our substitute (Matthew 5:17-18). We call this most vital work of Jesus submitting Himself to and living perfectly God's holy law the Savior's *active obedience*.

Indeed, Advent reveals how God fulfilled His eternal plan to send His Son born of the virgin Mary through a miracle worked by the Holy Spirit. That's the focus of Jesus' first advent with His Bethlehem birth. But Jesus will come again in great power and glory at the end of this world as we currently know it for the final redemption for all of God's true believers. With great joy we not only celebrate the Savior's birth, but eagerly anticipate His second coming.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 110 (1-4), 109, 92 (1, 5), 88 (4)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a.* Micah prophecies that the promised Messiah will be born in Bethlehem in the country, or region, of Ephrathah. He is the eternal ruler who will serve as our good shepherd and give us peace that we might live securely and everlastingly.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 85.* We can rejoice as we wait for Judgment Day because we know that the LORD has forgiven our sins. We put our hope in him who lifts us out of the depths of despair. (*Supplement*)

*Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10.* Our outward works are not sufficient to appease God's anger over our sins. Only Christ Jesus, the promised Messiah, was able to fulfill God's law perfectly and establish a new covenant of love between God and us. He is our substitute. By his perfect sacrifice for us we are blessed and made holy.

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. "Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us." Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23, EHV)

*Gospel: Luke 1:39-55.* Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth exclaims that Mary is "blessed...among women" for she is the mother of the Messiah. Mary responds with the words we call the "Magnificat." She rejoices in the blessing that God has given to her and she testifies that the coming Lord will bless not only her but all people of all time as Jesus is the only Savior of all.

*Sermon: Luke 1:39-55*

*Theme - "One Giant Leap For Mankind"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Where does the LORD promise His people through Micah that the Savior would be born?
- Old Testament: In verse 4, what picture does Micah give us of the Savior and His role that parallels Psalm 23 and John 10:14?
- Epistle: According to the writer to the Hebrews, what was the chief purpose for Jesus taking on human flesh and blood, that is, coming to earth to enter the human race?
- Epistle: How does Psalm 40:7-8, underscore what the Hebrew writer says in our epistle reading for today?
- Gospel: When Mary greeted Elizabeth, what did the baby (John the Baptizer) in Elizabeth's womb do?
- Gospel: What's the significance of John the Baptizer's response to hearing the word of God about the coming Savior?
- Gospel: How does Luke verify that Mary and Elizabeth clearly understood God's word in the Old Testament concerning the sending of Jesus as Savior?
- Gospel: Certainly, Mary was a special person to be chosen as the earthly mother of Jesus. But like every other person, Mary was a sinner. From verse 47, how does Mary confess that truth and acknowledge that she is a sinner?

## 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.

+ Voters' Meeting – today after service.

**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 3:1-4** – Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies. But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers'

bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. (EHV™)

**Philippians 1:3-11** – I thank my God every time I remember you. Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (EHV™)

**Luke 3:1-6** – In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. And everyone will see the salvation of God.” (EHV™)

Advent 4 – Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath known as the Angel's Candle. This candle reminds us of the joy of the heavenly host as they gave glory to God in the highest for sending the world's Savior.

As we witness these candles lit and burning, we sing the three stanzas of **Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel...**

1) Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. (Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!	2) Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain...)
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3) Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)	4) Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. (Refrain)
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