

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Christmas 1

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Despite the official celebration of Christmas freshly in the rearview mirror, we still relish in its ongoing blessings. Our Christchild came to redeem all people by giving Himself as a ransom for sin. Like a red ribbon surrounding a beautifully decorated Christmas gift, so the red line of prophecy runs throughout Scripture until the gospels unfold the gift of the Christchild. He became true man to submit to God's holy law and live it perfectly for us who couldn't. Jesus came as the God-man to sacrifice His innocent life to pay for sin. Our Savior rose victoriously as God and man to assure that He conquered sin and defeated death. His resurrection assures our physical resurrection.

Our focus today reflects the ongoing, central theme of Scripture: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).
Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service *"Rite Two."*
Hymns: 134, 153 (1-6), 148 (1-3, 7-8), 153 (7)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26. From early life under the tutelage of Eli, Samuel served in the temple of the LORD. Samuel remained a faithful prophet of the LORD throughout his life.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 111. We continue to sing praises to God for the marvelous work of redemption which He provided through His Son, our new-born Savior. (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Hebrews 2:10-18. God demanded a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Therefore, Jesus became fully human. He became our brother, like us in every way, except without sin, that He might atone for our sins. Jesus underwent temptations like us, yet was without sin. He can understand what we go through and provides His word to keep us from falling.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52. Even as a twelve-year-old boy Jesus was zealous for God's word. He stayed in the temple, His Father's house, to learn even more. When His parents found Him, He obediently followed them home, keeping the fourth commandment perfectly for us. In all things, Jesus served as our perfect substitute.

Sermon: Luke 2:41-52

Theme - "Jesus Is Zealous For His Father's House"

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Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: In a special way, how did the Christian parents, Hannah and Elkanah, show their devotion to the LORD?
- Old Testament: According to verse 26, how was Samuel similar to what we hear about Jesus? (See Luke 2:52)
- Epistle: When the writer says that Jesus "shared in their [mankind's] humanity" and that "he had to be made like his brothers in every way," he certainly doesn't mean that Jesus was born in sin or ever sinned (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15). To what, then, is the writer referring?
- Epistle: Who are Abraham's descendants according to what Paul describes? (See Romans 4:16)
- Gospel: Bible scholars categorize Psalm 69 as a "Messianic" psalm, which means, the psalmist prophesies specifically about matters directly pertaining to Jesus. As directed by the Holy Spirit about 1,000 years before Jesus was born, how do we read in the gospel that Jesus is fulfilling verse 9 from Psalm 69 where it says, "...zeal for your house consumes me?"
- Gospel: We confess according to the Bible that Jesus had a human nature and a divine nature. Where do we witness Jesus' humanity and divinity in this section of Luke's gospel?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. We are studying the Book of Psalms.

+ Confirmation class: 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church on Friday.

+ Sunday school on Sunday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m.

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 – But Samuel ministered before the LORD while he was still a young boy, dressed in a special vest made of linen. His mother would make a little robe for him and bring it to him whenever she came up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD give you offspring from this woman in place of the son she asked for, whom she loaned to the LORD." Then they would go back to their home. The young man Samuel continued to grow, and he increased in favor with both the LORD and with men. (EHV™)

Hebrews 2:10-18 – Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me.

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Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For surely, he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (EHV™)

Luke 2:41-52 – Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" They did not understand what he was telling them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. (EHV™)