

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

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The writer to the Hebrews pens through the Holy Spirit: *“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”* (2:14-15). Of course, the one exception concerning Jesus was that He was conceived by a miracle of the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary. Unlike any other human born of a woman, too, Jesus was born without sin. We call this truth of Scripture His immaculate conception.

Moreover, Jesus had to take on a human nature so He could carry out His saving work for you and me. One aspect of that work was His “active obedience.” Jesus actively had to submit Himself to God’s holy law and live it perfectly as our Substitute.

What’s more, Jesus—as true God and true man—died on the cross to pay for our sins. We call this work of Jesus His vicarious atonement and describe it as His “passive obedience.” Consequently, through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus saved us. Although we may physically die before He returns on Judgment Day, because He as the God-man rose from death physically with His human, glorified body, so too will we (Job 19:25-27; today’s epistle).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service “*Rite Two.*”

Hymns: 1, 167 (1-4), 167 (5-7), 57

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8. The LORD desires to bless all people through the nourishing grace that comes through the word and sacraments. When people remove themselves from the LORD, however, they do not enjoy His blessings.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 1. The psalm parallels the Old Testament reading. The righteous in the LORD are blessed and prosper as a well-watered tree. God guards and protects His people but warns that the wicked will perish. (CW pg.64).

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20. St. Paul gives us the comforting message that Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. Only the true God, the Lord of life and death, could be our Savior.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Alleluia. (John 6:68 EHV)

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26. Jesus, the Lord of all, blesses people with many

physical and spiritual blessings. Our Savior makes it clear that we should place the highest value on those blessings that bring us the certainty of forgiveness and eternal life. He warns that trusting in earthly blessings brings only temporary happiness. In Jesus, we find everlasting joy.

Sermon Text: Luke 6:17-26

Theme - “The Son Of Man Brings Blessings”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What two contrasts does the LORD present through His prophet Jeremiah?
- Old Testament: How are Jeremiah’s divinely given words from God similar to Psalm 1?
- Epistle: What are two reasons Jesus’ bodily (physical) resurrection remains so central to our Christian faith?
- Epistle: Why does Paul refer to Jesus as the “*firstfruits*” of those who have fallen asleep?
- Gospel: Jesus, as true God and true man, has a physical body like ours...except He was born without sin and never sinned. Yet, the “*LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all; he took up our infirmities*” (Isaiah 53:4-6). So, Jesus can truly “*sympathize*” with us (Hebrews 4:15). Truly, He compassionately and miraculously met people’s physical needs. But what is our most important need?

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.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 – This is what the LORD says. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD. He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives. But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit. (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 – Now if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful

people of all. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (EHV™)

Luke 6:17-26 – He went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples, and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all. He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, because yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh. Blessed are you whenever people hate you, and whenever they exclude and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven! The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, because you are receiving your comfort now. Woe to you who are well fed now, because you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, because you will be mourning and weeping. Woe to you when all people speak well of you, because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false prophets. (EHV™)