

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

Epiphany 7

February 20, 2022

In what some consider the most comforting of all chapters in Scripture, the Apostle Paul assures through the Holy Spirit: “*We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose....*” (Romans 8:28) Now Paul doesn’t promise that everything that happens to us living in this sin-fallen world is good. Paul outlines in Romans 8 how we do suffer the consequences of sin. Yet, there is the promise that God will make all work out for good, although we may not at times feel it, see it or understand it.

How can we be so sure? God has “*called*” us to be His own. We know that happened in baptism, where God personally “*called us by name*” and “*made us His own*” (Isaiah 43:1). What’s more, Jesus is our Redeemer and Judge...and if He doesn’t condemn us because of His saving work, who can? Truly, the LORD promises to never “*leave or forsake us*” (Deuteronomy 31:6) based on His divine promise of grace and mercy...all due to the saving work of Jesus.

We hear of God’s ultimate control in the lives of His believers in the case of Joseph when it seemed all was going wrong. In the end, however, the LORD blessed Joseph more than humanly imaginable. Also, Paul guarantees that even physical death, which seems to be a dead end for us, is overcome by Jesus’ resurrection and ours because of Him. Finally, instead of lashing out at our enemies who may do us wrong, Jesus urges us to love them and share with them the confidence we have that “*God makes all work for our good*” as His people.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 6, 519, 311 (1, 5), Insert: “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Genesis 45:3-8a, 15. Even though his brothers mistreated him, Joseph shows them love by forgiving them, by revealing himself to them after he led them to repentance, by pointing to God’s providential care, and by providing for their needs and the needs of their families.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 103. The LORD’s constant and complete forgiveness fills us with peace. His love and compassion remain with us forever. (CW pg.105)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38a, 42-49. Through Christ’s resurrection, we know that we also shall rise. Our corrupted sinful flesh will be replaced with the glorious, holy likeness of Christ.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Alleluia. (Luke 6:36, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38. Jesus, whose life and message was one of love for sinners, instructs us to show love to others as well, even to our enemies.

Sermon: Genesis 45:3-15

Theme - “The LORD Makes All Work For Our Good”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Before Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, how did he demonstrate his “quiet” confidence in the Lord when it came to his relationship with his brothers?
- Old Testament: When Joseph’s brothers feared retaliation, how did Joseph reassure them of his Christian love-prompted forgiveness?
- Epistle: How does Paul comfort the questioning mind with the truths he outlines about the resurrection?
- Gospel: What goal does Jesus have in mind by our “loving our enemies”?

Gospel: How do we reconcile Jesus’ thoughts about judging others in this section with what Jesus is saying in Matthew 7:1-5?

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 – ? 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.

Genesis 45:3-8a, 15 – Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” His brothers could not answer him, because they were terrified by his presence. Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me, please.” They came closer. He said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves for selling me to this

place, since God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. For two years now the famine has been in the land, and there are still five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as survivors on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great act of deliverance. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that his brothers talked with him. (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-49 – But someone will object, “How can it be that the dead are raised? With what kind of body are they going to come?” You are being foolish. What you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that will be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body of the kind he wanted it to have. That is the way the resurrection of the dead will be. What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown as a natural body; it is raised as a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living natural being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, that which is spiritual is not first; rather, first comes the natural, then the spiritual. The first man is of the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man made of dust, so are the people who are made of dust, and as is the heavenly man, so the heavenly people will be. And just as we have borne the image of the man made of dust, let us also bear the image of the heavenly man. (EHV™)

Luke 6:27-38 – “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other too. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes away your things, do not demand them back. “Treat others just as you would want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? To be sure, even the sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same thing. If you lend to those from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners lend to sinners in order to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you.” (EHV™)