

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

Lent 3

March 20, 2022

Our Scripture lessons for this Third Sunday in Lent wonderfully illustrate Law and Gospel. The Law part warns God's people not to reject His call to serve, ignore the power of His word when confronted by temptation, or question His ways when we don't understand. The Gospel part holds before us God's grace-promise of free salvation through Jesus and His powerful word, which equips us for His work, provides a powerful weapon to combat temptation and creates the "*peace of mind which transcends all understanding and guards our hearts & minds in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:7).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 282 (1-5), 493, 450 (1, 3), 282 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15 Because the Israelites suffered in slavery in Egypt, the ever-present and all-powerful Lord called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and deliver them from their misery.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 38. When we realize the sorry state of our sinfulness, we plead to the LORD for forgiveness. He hears and answers our cries for mercy. (*Supplement*)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 St. Paul reminds us that even some of the chosen Israelites fell into grievous sins and lost God's free gift of salvation. If we trust in our own effort to stand firm in the faith, we also will fall. God, however, provides the strength we need to overcome every temptation.

Verse of the Day: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:14,15, EHV) [We omit saying/singing alleluias during Lent]

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 Tragedies and hardships can strike anyone at any time, since we are sinners living in a broken world infected with sin. God is patient with us sinners, and desires none should perish. Nevertheless, if sinners resist His call to repentance and faith, they will be cut down in the judgment, which is the greatest tragedy of all.

Sermon: Luke 13:1-9

Theme - "Jesus Calls Us To Repent"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How do we know that this "Angel of the LORD" appearing to Moses was the LORD Himself and not merely an angel created by God? (See verses 5-6)

- Old Testament: What is the basic meaning of the term "angel?" (See the catechism's glossary for help if needed)
- Old Testament: How many different excuse dialogues of why he shouldn't accept the LORD's call did Moses offer (Read Exodus 3:11-4:13)
- Epistle: How can Israel's past history be of help to present day Christians?
- Epistle: Evaluate – Based on what Paul writes here, if God made us and allows temptations to entice us...it must be His fault if we fall into sin. (See Luther's explanation of the Sixth Petition in the catechism)
- Epistle: What is the "way out" of temptation or answer to temptation according to what Paul emphasizes in this section?
- Gospel: Agree/Disagree – When a tragedy strikes, God is punishing people?
- Gospel: What is the root cause behind all tragedies and troubles in this life? (See Romans 8 as an answer and antidote)
- Gospel: Instead of trying to appease our human reason as to why certain things happen/don't happen, what's Jesus' counsel to us as His faithful believers?
- Gospel: What's the point of Jesus' illustration of the fruit tree and how does it apply especially in view of Holy Week?

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 – Monday from 3:15-5 p.m.

+ Midweek Lenten worship: March 23 @ 6:00 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.

Exodus 3:1-15 – Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. So he said, "I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up." When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" Moses said, "I am here." The LORD said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place

where you are standing is holy ground.” He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?” So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’ (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 – For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come. So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it. (EHV™)

Luke 13:1-9 – At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.” He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’ But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’” (EHV™)