

# 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

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 1, 2022**

As St. John closes his gospel in chapter 21, he records how Jesus had appeared to His disciples for the third time. This time, while fishing, the Savior repeated an earlier miracle so they might recognize that He, who had risen, was the same Lord Jesus who had died for all and called them to “fish for men.” Prior to this renewed commissioning, John shared how Jesus indicated that the essence of this divine mission—as we heard last Sunday—is to proclaim law and gospel: “*Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.*’ After saying this, he breathed on them and said, ‘*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven*’” (20:21-23).

Therefore, we can conclude this important truth. The essence of our Christian life revolves around proclaiming Jesus as “*the Way and the Truth and the Life*” (John 14:6). Jesus keeps us on this earth—instead of instantly taking us to heaven once “Christianized”—so we can “*go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you*” (Matthew 28:19)—that is our mission! Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, THE DIVINE SERVICE “*Rite Two*” with communion.

Hymns: 354 (1-3, 5, 10), 198, 325, 340 (3-4)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Acts 9:1-19a* Luke records the conversion and call of this former persecutor of Christians to be, perhaps, the most famous apostle of all time!

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 116.* Based on his gracious call to faith, the psalmist offers ongoing praise as he walks in and witnesses his faith (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14* St. John describes this vision of heaven, where we see all the angels of heaven praising our risen and ascended Savior.

*Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.* Our hearts were burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road, and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32, cf. EHV)

*Gospel: John 21:1-14* John records this third appearance of our risen Savior at which Jesus reaffirms His call to them...to serve as “fishers of people.”

*Sermon: Acts 9:1-19a*

*Theme - “Blinded By Light To See The LIGHT”*

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- First lesson: What is Saul’s Greek name?

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- First lesson: What happened to him on the Damascus Road?
- First lesson: What made Ananias afraid of him?

- First lesson: What did he admit/confess about himself, through the Holy Spirit, in 1 Timothy 1:12-17?
- Epistle: What’s John’s central point in this section from Revelation?
- Gospel: Why do you think Jesus appeared to His disciples for the third time?
- Gospel: How does Jesus verify again that He bodily/physically rose from death?

## Announcements:

- + Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m.
- + Confirmation class: 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church on Monday.
- + Sunday school on Sunday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m.
- + Open meeting to discuss service time change: **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.

**Acts 9:1-19a** – Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them to Jerusalem as prisoners. As he went on his way and was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” He replied, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you need to do.” The men traveling with him stood there speechless. They heard the voice but did not see anyone. They raised Saul up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. They took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. For three days he could not see, and he did not eat or drink. There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias!” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord told him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. In fact, at this very moment he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias

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come in and lay his hands on him so that he can regain his sight.” Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and how much harm he did to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has authority here from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” The Lord said to him, “Go! This man is my chosen

instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. Indeed, I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” Ananias left and entered the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, whom you saw on your way here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. And after taking some food, he regained his strength. (EHV™)

**Revelation 5:11-14** – And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. With a loud voice they were saying: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. I also heard every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders bowed down and worshipped. (EHV™)

**John 21:1-14** – After this, Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how he showed himself: Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going fishing.” They replied, “We’ll go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. Jesus called to them, “Boys, don’t you have any fish?” “No!” they answered. He told them, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” So they cast the net out. Then they were not able to haul it in because of the large number of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard, “It is the Lord!” he tied his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about one hundred yards. When they stepped out on land, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed aboard and hauled the net to land, full of large fish, 153 of them. Yet even with so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come, eat breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them, and also the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. (EHV™)