

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

Certainly, there remain many human definitions of love. Some consider love a mere feeling, that unfortunately can change. It rises and falls like the tide along a sea shore.

Others see love as purely emotional. While it's true that feelings are at play in this kind of love, this type of "feel good" love revolves around "what makes me happy." Rooted in selfishness flawed by sin, if circumstances change, such love quickly vanishes and can even transform into hatred.

While God-pleasing love affects the feelings and touches the emotions, it's grounded in commitment. We witness examples of such steadfast love throughout the Bible. In Acts, love for souls compels Christians to share the good news of Jesus' forgiveness to lost souls, even to enemies who reject God's gospel. In Revelation, John assures Jesus' saving-love outcome for our Lord's faithful.

Finally, John, characterized as God's "apostle of love," emphasizes how Jesus demonstrated perfect, committed love. Such self-sacrificing love moved our Jesus to save unlovable sinners. Moreover, as forgiven sinners value Jesus' saving love, His love compels us to share Christlike love as we interact with others.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, THE DIVINE SERVICE "Rite Two" with communion.

Hymns: 420 (1-5), 407, 316-317 (1-2), 420 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Acts 13:44-52 In this continuing report according to Acts, we heard how the Lord blesses Paul and Barnabas' preaching of the gospel among some Gentiles despite the opposition of some Jewish enemies of God's word.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 89. The psalmist praises the LORD's acts of great love as proven in His creations and salvation (CW pg.98).

Epistle: Revelation 20:1-5 John's vision speaks to Satan's binding at the beginning of the New Testament era. Those martyrs, who remain faithful to Jesus, don't have to fear the "second death," which the Bible describes as suffering in hell.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." Alleluia. (John 14:6, EHV)

Gospel: John 13:31-35 John's account takes us back to Jesus' sharing with His disciples about His death, resurrection, ascension and reign in heaven. Then, our Savior speaks of His "new command" of "loving one another." By showing such Christlike love, Jesus' followers validate the sincerity of their faith.

Sermon: John 13:31-35

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Theme - "Divine Love Has No Human Boundaries"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First Lesson: What would we, on the surface, say are the "pros" and "cons" of what St. Luke reports in this section from Acts?
- First Lesson: How did God demonstrate His patient love to the Jews described here?
- First Lesson: Describe Paul and Barnabas' response throughout this experience.
- Epistle: The Bible speaks of "three" deaths. What are they?
- Epistle: What's the main difference between the "first heaven and earth" and the "new heaven and earth"?
- Gospel: On Mandy Thursday evening, what are the several new commands Jesus gave His disciples and us as His believers?

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 13:44-52 – On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with envy and began to contradict what Paul was saying by slandering him. Then Paul and Barnabas responded fearlessly, "It was necessary that God's word be spoken to you first. But since you reject it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, look: We are now turning to the Gentiles! For this is what the Lord has instructed us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth." When the Gentiles heard this, they were rejoicing and praising the word of the Lord. All who had been appointed for eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being carried through the whole region. But the Jews incited the God-fearing

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women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their district.

So they shook the dust off their feet against them and went to Iconium. The disciples continued to be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. (EHV™)

Revelation 20:1-5 – Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer existed. And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And from the throne I heard a loud voice that said, “Look! God’s dwelling is with people. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, because the former things have passed away.” The one who was seated on the throne said to me, “Look, I am making everything new!” He also said, “Write, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me: It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To anyone who is thirsty, I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. (EHV™)

John 13:31-35 – After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.” “Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (EHV™)