

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

Pentecost 6

July 17, 2022

In keeping with the theme of the growth of God's Church during Pentecost, today's lessons point to the fact that the life of a follower of Christ is a life of self-denial. True faith demonstrates itself in sincere service to the Lord...all to His glory. Indeed, Jesus comes first in our lives (Matthew 6:33).

The objective comfort coming from a God-first attitude (First Commandment) remains the gospel. Since we know God has saved us by His grace in Jesus' alone, we are free to live for Him. Out of gratitude, we live to do and to keep His will. God's saving gospel moves us to share this "good news" of free salvation with others as well.

Jesus demonstrated a perfect love that wouldn't prevent Him from carrying out His saving mission. God grant that we cling faithfully to Jesus' word and follow it; it's the blessed source of our assurance of salvation and the power that alone can bring others, through our faithful witness of that word, to faith in that free salvation.

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

Hymns: 424, 517 (1-5), 328 (1-2), 517 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:14-21. The Almighty LORD God assured a doubting Elijah that he was not alone in his battle against idolatry. The LORD had reserved 7,000 faithful in Israel, who still worshiped the true and only God.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 62. David found rest for his soul in the loving strength of the LORD, even when the world bitterly opposed him (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25. The freedom that is ours in Christ is not to be used as a license to sin. Rather, we are to serve one another and live "in step with our new nature," which is directed by God's Holy Spirit.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62. Jesus impressed upon His followers that discipleship means at times hardship and challenges to our walk of faith as we put Jesus first.

Sermon: 1 Kings 19:14-21

Theme - "Be Zealous For The LORD God Almighty"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

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- Old Testament: The LORD asked the fleeing Elijah, "What are you doing here?" How do we best understand Elijah's response, "I have been zealous for the LORD God Almighty?"
- Old Testament: In response to Elijah's answer, what tangible action plan did the LORD tell him to take?
- Old Testament: Of what did the LORD assure Elijah (v.18)?
- Epistle: What does it mean that "Christ has set us free?"
- Epistle: How are we not to abuse this freedom?
- Epistle: Of what does the Lord warn through Paul (v.21)?
- Epistle: In connection with verses 22 & 25, what does Paul urge us to do as "free in Christ" Christians?
- Gospel: Despite opposition to His saving work, what does Luke inform us about Jesus' attitude in verse 51 as He trekked toward Jerusalem and the cross?
- Gospel: According to Luke in verse 52, why didn't the Samaritans welcome Jesus?
- Gospel: What's Jesus' point (vv. 57-62) about being disciples?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation class: Monday at the church at 2:15-3:45.

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.

1 Kings 19:14-21 – He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life." Then the LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazeal as king over Aram. You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes the sword of Hazeal, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees

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have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him." So Elijah went from there

and found Elisha son of Shaphat. Elisha was doing the plowing with twelve teams of oxen in front of him, and he himself was driving the twelfth team. Elijah crossed over to him and threw his cloak over him. Then Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah. He said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother good-bye! Then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said, “Go back! For what have I done to you?” So Elisha turned back from following him. Then he took the team of oxen and slaughtered them. Using the equipment from the oxen as fuel, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he got up, followed Elijah, and served him. (EVH™)

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 – It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. After all, brothers, you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as a starting point for your sinful flesh. Rather, serve one another through love. In fact, the whole law is summed up in this one statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. What I am saying is this: Walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out what the sinful flesh desires. For the sinful flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful flesh. In fact, these two continually oppose one another, so that you do not continue to do these things you want to do. But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under the control of the law. Now the works of the sinful flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, complete lack of restraint, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things similar to these. I warn you, just as I also warned you before, that those who continue to do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the spirit, let us also walk in step with it. (EVH™)

Luke 9:51-62 – When the days were approaching for him to be taken up, Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of him. They went and entered a Samaritan village to make preparations for him. But the people did not welcome him, because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. “You don’t know what kind of spirit is influencing you. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy people’s souls, but to save them.” Then they went to another village. As they went on the way, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” He said to another man, “Follow me!” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus told him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another man also said, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those at my home.” Jesus told him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (EVH™)