

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 13

September 4, 2022

The life of the believer in this world is marked by difficulties. Often it seems that unbelievers have easier lives in this world—consider what the LORD’s inspired writer pens in Psalm 73.

In reality, however, the life of unbelievers may be easier on this side of eternity in some respects, but they are not better. Jesus remains our strong and solid foundation in the face of any challenges. Focusing on the cross of Christ prepares believers to meet these challenges with confidence.

Standing up for Jesus and His cross, however, doesn’t bring peace from the world. Although the cry in America these days is for “tolerance,” the word of God doesn’t always unite—it often divides. The word of God does not bring peace between believers and unbelievers, but division, even among the strongest of human relationships such as the family. Such troubles in life echo Jesus’ realistic reminder: “In this world you will have trouble.” Nevertheless, Jesus reminds us of His powerful promise: “But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

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

Hymns: 72 (1-4), 249, 414 (3), 599

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:23-29. The all-knowing, ever-present LORD warns people and prophet alike not to speak falsehoods, to chase fanciful dreams, when we have the sure foundation and truth of His word in the Bible to hold to and to proclaim.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 73. The Holy Spirit’s psalmist, Asaph, reminds us of the Lord’s blessings to us, especially as we question the hardships we face while unbelievers seemingly enjoy peace and prosperity (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-13. God’s writer urges us to keep our eyes of faith fastened on Jesus, as we endure hardships because of our faith. In reality, God can even use these hardships as discipline intended for our good.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. Alleluia. (Hebrews 4:12, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53. The absolute truth the Bible proclaims about Jesus—which we believe—will cause divisions. Yet, we must always persevere in and proclaim the whole truth of the Bible, regardless of the reactions of other or even the temporal consequences we may face.

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Theme: “**Always Proclaim God’s Word Truthfully**”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: The LORD mostly uses “normal” means to accomplish His purposes. What assurance does this scriptural account give us that God remains in control?
- Epistle: Name a moment of hardship in your life that, in hindsight, you could see as discipline from God.
- Epistle: What is God’s intended result for such discipline?
- Epistle: During hardships, where does God’s writer direct our focus? (See v.2)
- Gospel: What does Jesus mean when He says, “*I have come to bring fire on the earth*”?
- Gospel: Agree/Disagree - Jesus wishes to bring division on earth, even among those who consider themselves Christians.
- Gospel: To what type of division is Jesus especially referring? (See Matthew 10:34-39)?
- Gospel: What is at the root of this division?

Announcements:

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

+ Confirmation class: ?

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.

Jeremiah 23:23-29 – Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, “I have had a dream! I have had a dream!” How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own hearts. They think they can make my people forget my

name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has chaff to do with grain? declares the LORD. Is not my word like a fire? declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? (EHV™)

Hebrews 12:1–13 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God’s throne. Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard the Lord’s discipline lightly, and do not become weary of his correction. For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves, and he corrects every son he accepts. Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. In addition, we have earthly fathers who discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits and live? They discipline us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees.... (EHV™)

Luke 12:49-53 - “I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited. But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (EHV™)