

## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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### Pentecost 23

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How can we, as poor sinners, stand acquitted before a just and holy God?

Who has met our Lord's demand, when He insisted: "*By holy, as I the LORD God am holy*" (Leviticus 19:2)?

There are two ways sinful humans have tried to be right before God.

One way fails to comprehend how sinful we truly are, that we can't do anything to save ourselves. That's not to say such a mindset doesn't strive to please God. But in the end, the focus becomes a matter of degree on what "we do for God," instead of trusting in "what God has done for us" in Jesus.

The second way? People redefine sin and twist God's word to support their flawed view. Such a practice "lessens" the wrong; it "minimizes" sin. That's their pathway to "make right" all wrong so God will accept them.

In the end, both ways of errant thinking are not biblical. They harm faith and endanger one to lose salvation. How thankful we remain that God the Holy Spirit has brought us to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, as succinctly summarized by the apostle Paul when he declared: "*So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law*" (Galatians 2:16).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service, "*Rite Two.*"

Hymns: 227 (1-5), 226 (1-4), 416, 227 (6)

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Deuteronomy 10:12-22.* Moses instructs how the LORD demands perfect righteousness, stemming from our "fearing, loving and trusting God above all things."

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 1.* There are two paths in this life: the path of the Christian who faithfully follows His LORD's way of salvation, and the path of the ungodly, which leads to loss of salvation (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18.* Paul's trust in life and death rested in God's grace and rooted itself in God's mercy. That alone silences a guilty conscience and grants us confidence on heaven.

*Verse of the Day: Alleluia.* The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. Alleluia. (2 Timothy 4:18, EHV)

*Gospel: Luke 18:18-27.* Jesus answers what kind of person stands justified before His heavenly Father. It's not the Pharisee, who trusted in his own

holiness achieved by his own good works. Rather, the tax collector, who humbly trusted in God's gracious forgiveness.

*Sermon: Luke 18:18-27*

*Theme - "God Makes The Humanly Impossible Divinely Possible"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Go through this section and indicate what parts are law and what parts are gospel.
- Old Testament: What does it mean to "fear" the LORD in the context of these verses?
- Epistle: When Paul relates how he "*finished*" his race and "*fought*" the good fight of the faith, how do we know—in what he also stated—that he didn't depend on what he did to earn heaven?
- Epistle: How do we "fight the good fight" of the faith?
- Epistle: How did the Lord rescue Paul based on the point of this section?
- Gospel: What evidence is there here that the Pharisee relied on what he did to make himself right with God?
- Gospel: Where is there evidence that Jesus' hearers "got" our Savior's point?
- Gospel: How did Jesus demonstrate His omniscience (knows everything) and His omnipotence (all power) as true God?

### Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation Class: Monday 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

**Deuteronomy 10:12-22** – So now, Israel, what is the LORD your God asking of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD and his statutes that I am commanding you today for your own good. Indeed, the heavens and the heaven of heavens, the earth and everything that is on it—these belong to the LORD your God. Still, the LORD attached himself to your fathers, loved them, and he chose their descendants after them (That's you!) from all peoples, as it is today. So cut away the tough shell of your sinful nature, and do not be stubborn any longer. The LORD your God is God of Gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, the mighty one and the awesome one, who

does not show favoritism and does not take a bribe. He carries out justice for

the fatherless and widows. He loves the alien who dwells among you and gives him food and clothing. So you are to love the alien, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt. Fear the LORD your God, serve him, cling to him, and take your oaths in his name. He is your glory. He is your God, who performed for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. When your fathers went down to Egypt, they numbered seventy people, but now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky. (EHV™)

**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18** – You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing. At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (EHV™)

**Luke 18:18-27** – A certain ruler asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus asked him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. Honor your father and mother.’” “I have kept all these since I was a child,” he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” But when the ruler heard these words, he became very sad, because he was very rich. When Jesus saw that the man became very sad, he said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard this said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible for God.” (EHV™)