

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Epiphany 2

January 15, 2023

As mentioned last week, January 6 marked the official date for Epiphany (again...stressing that Jesus is the saving Light of the world for Jews and Gentiles alike). Since Epiphany officially comes on a fixed date (January 6) and Easter is a moveable festival, the Epiphany season will be longer or shorter depending upon the date of Easter. It is possible to have nine Sundays after the Epiphany or as few as five Sundays.

The Epiphany season serves as a bridge between the Christmas and Lenten seasons. The truth emphasized at this time is that Jesus, who came into this world in the form of a servant (today's Old Testament), still at times lets His glory shine as true God (today's Gospel). To some degree, all the Scripture readings during this season present Jesus' deity as "shining forth," although He often cloaked it during His state of humiliation. Yet, Jesus revealed His divine nature through His miracles and in His authoritative preaching. Instead of merely proclaiming, "This is what the LORD says," Jesus proclaimed about Himself, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:14-21).

The final Sunday of the Epiphany season comes on Transfiguration Sunday. On that Sunday, Scripture previews the divine glory of the Savior hidden beneath the form of a servant; Jesus especially gives this glimpse of His divine glory before His final act of humility on Good Friday.

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

Hymns: 169 (1,4), 103, 233, 169 (5)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-6. This section is the second of Isaiah's "Servant Songs." In it the LORD calls His Servant to gather Israel to Himself. To do so this Servant is given a "mouth like a sharpened sword" and made into a "polished arrow." But the Servant's work is even greater than this: He is a light to shine beyond Israel for the blessing of the Gentiles.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 89. Like Andrew of old, the Church bears joyous witness of the LORD and His gospel to the world (*Supplement*).

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. Paul opens his first letter to the troubled congregation at Corinth with words of thanksgiving for all the grace given them by God. But while the Corinthians "do not lack" in any of the manifold gifts of the Spirit, Paul already hints at two of the troubles besetting the congregation: their misuse of tongues and their pride in knowledge.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. He said to me, "You are my servant, in whom I will display my glory." Alleluia. (Isaiah 49:3 cf. EHV)

Gospel: John 1:29-41. John's testimony about Jesus and His baptism leads two of His disciples (Andrew is named explicitly; the other is often surmised to be John the son of Zebedee) to follow Jesus. Andrew in turn witnessed to his brother Peter about Jesus. So the gospel spread and touched the lives of the earliest disciples.

Sermon: Isaiah 49:1-6

Theme - "Israel's Servant Is Our Saving Light"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: According to this "Servant Song" section of Isaiah foreshadowing the person and work of the promised Savior, what information does this section provide about Jesus?
- Epistle: To what did Paul point in the lives of the Corinthians testifying to God's grace at work in them?
- Gospel: What evidence does John provide about Jesus as the "Lamb of God"?
- Gospel: Sometimes, what we do and say might have a bigger impact than we realize, when it comes to sharing our faith about Jesus. What two things did John's testimony about Jesus lead Andrew to do?

Announcements:

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. Thank you!

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

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

+ **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.

Isaiah 49:1-6 - Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you far away peoples! The LORD called me from the womb. When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword. He hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me a polished arrow. He concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, “You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory.” But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain. I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing. Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD, and my reward is with my God.” But now the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to turn Jacob back to him, so that Israel might be gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD, because my God has been my strength—the LORD said: It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth. (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth—those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, who are called as saints—along with all in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, because the testimony about Christ was established in you. As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (EHV™)

John 1:29-41 – The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.’ I myself did not know who he was, but I came baptizing with water so that he would be revealed to Israel.” John also testified, “I saw the Spirit descend like a dove from heaven and remain on him. I myself did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I saw this myself and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day, John was standing there again with two of his disciples. When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned around and saw them following him, he asked, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” He told them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying. They stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his own brother Simon and say to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is translated “the Christ”). (EHV™)