

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6134 US 23 North, Rogers City, MI 49779

(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Epiphany 1

January 8, 2023

Blessed Gentile Christmas! The official date of Epiphany falls on January 6 and several subsequent Sundays are named the Sundays after the Epiphany. Epiphany emphasizes that Jesus is the “*Light of the world*” (John 8:12) who came to be the Savior of all people, not just the Jewish race. That’s why Epiphany marks the Gentile Christmas.

As part of His saving work, the gospel lesson relays the baptism of Jesus. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized to wash away any sins; He was born without sin and never sinned. Nevertheless, submitting to baptism served as part of Jesus’ saving work to “*fulfill all righteousness*” (Matthew 5:17-18). Moreover, Jesus’ baptism served as His inauguration into His ministry. At Jesus’ baptism we witness divine approval by the heavenly Father as well as the Holy Spirit by lighting upon Jesus in the dove.

Certainly, Jesus’ baptism reminds us of how the heavenly Father commissioned Him to complete His saving work that “*whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). It further reminds us of how the Holy Spirit came to us in baptism, bringing us to faith and applying to us the benefit of Jesus’ redeeming work. That same Spirit continues to come to us to strengthen our faith through God’s word and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** “*Rite Two.*”

Hymns: 247 (1-5), 199, 54, 247 (6-7)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-7. Isaiah records this beautiful “*Servant Song,*” assuring the LORD’s touching gospel promise, “*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.*” This Servant, of course, is the promised coming Savior, who would bring sinners forgiveness.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 45. The psalmist prophecies about and rejoices in the coming Savior-King who would establish an eternal kingdom for those receiving His forgiveness (*Supplement*).

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-38. Peter responds to the divine vision given him demonstrating that Jesus came to be the Savior for all people.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11b, EHV)

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17. Matthew records Jesus’ baptism. God the Father discloses His love and pleasure with Jesus as Savior of sinners; the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus ushering our Lord into the beginning of His saving work.

Sermon: Acts 10:34-38

Theme - “God Shows No Favoritism”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Who is the fulfillment of the LORD’s prophecy about His servant? (See Matthew 12:17-21; Luke 4:18-21; Acts 13:47)
- Old Testament: What’s the thought behind the gospel promise as expressed by the LORD in v. 3?
- Epistle: How did God demonstrate to Peter in this vision that He is the Savior of both Jews and Gentiles? (Read Acts 10:9-48)
- Gospel: Where do we witness evidence of the Holy Trinity at Jesus’ baptism?
- Gospel: What does it mean that Jesus came to “fulfill all righteousness?”

Announcements:

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

+ Confirmation Class: Monday from 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 42:1-7 - Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I am placing my Spirit on him. He will announce a just verdict for the nations. He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice. He will not make his voice heard in the street. A bent reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out. He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict. He will not burn out, and he will not be broken until he establishes justice on the earth. The coastlands will wait for his law. This is what the true God says, the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it

and life to those who walk on it. I am the LORD. I have called you in righteousness. I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you. I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to be a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon, and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison. (EHV™)

Acts 10:34-38 - Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. “You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him. (EHV™)

Matthew 3:13-17 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.” (EHV™)