

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Epiphany 5

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As begun last week, the gospel lesson for the next several Sundays will provide portions of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus proclaimed these Beatitudes ("*Blessed are...*"), in part, to guide our Christian living.

Certainly, as Christians we already know the way to heaven. Jesus alone remains that "*way and the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Truly, as Christians we realize that we can't live the perfect lives God demands. If so, then why would we need a Savior from sin? Therefore, Jesus lived that perfection and died for our sins as our Substitute (Matthew 5:17-18).

Nevertheless, as faithful Christians we follow God's word to guide us in pleasing Him—our way of saying "Thank You" for His gift of salvation. By the Holy Spirit's power in the word, Christians receive God-power to "*let their lights shine.*" What's the purpose? Jesus says "...*that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

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

Hymns: 1, 198, 314 (1-2), Insert: "*God Be With You...*"

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 58:5-9a. The LORD prescribed Israel's ceremonial worship, including fasting. But such things were never to be considered godly simply by virtue of their performance. The LORD looks beyond the ceremony to the heart. The worship of God extends beyond the formalities of worship to include the entire life of the believer.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 111. The psalmist urges believers to proclaim the great, saving works of the LORD (*Supplement*).

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Paul reminds the Corinthians of his preaching and teaching among them. His preaching centered on the crucified Christ, not on the promotion of self. True Christian preaching is always to be Christ-centered, a demonstration of the Spirit's power, not human wisdom.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. "But as it is written: What no eye has seen and no ear has heard and no human mind has conceived— that is what God has prepared for those who love him." Alleluia. (1 Corinthians 2:9 EHV)

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20. In this section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He describes faithful Christian "light" witness to a sin darkened world. Christians proclaim a perfect Law-Fulfiller and Sin-Sacrifice in Jesus.

Sermon: Matthew 5:13-20

Theme - "Season Your Lives With Jesus"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What attitude towards true religious life did the LORD observe about the people?
- Old Testament: Give examples of how modern-day Christians become guilty of "formalistic" religious living and how we prevent it.
- Epistle: What made Paul's message and ministry effective?
- Gospel: In this continuation of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, what's His point in describing Christians as the salt of the earth?
- Gospel: What's Jesus' point in calling Christians to "*let their lights shine?*"
- Gospel: It's obvious that no one can do the above perfectly, no one, that is, except, Jesus our Savior. How does Jesus emphasize that truth in verses 17-18?
- Gospel: What practical comfort do verses 17-18 provide us?

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 58:5-9a - Is this the kind of fast that I would choose: a day when a

person afflicts himself and bows his head like a reed and makes his bed on sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day to gain the LORD's favor? On the contrary, isn't this the kind of fast that I would choose: to loosen the chains of wickedness, to tear apart the ropes of a yoke, to release the oppressed so they go free, and to tear every yoke to pieces? Isn't a true fast that you share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless and afflicted into a house? Yes, when you see a naked person, you are to cover him, and do not hide yourself from your own flesh and blood. Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the LORD will follow you. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, "Here I am!" (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 - As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not marked by persuasive words of human wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (EHV™)

Matthew 5:13-20 - "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (EHV™)