

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Lent 4

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Part of our Lenten preparation revolves around repentance. In fact, we stress the twofold nature of repentance for Christians: turning from sin and turning to Jesus as our Savior from sin.

Certainly, that first “part” of repentance, or turning from sin, means we all must recognize our sin. It’s convenient to give lip service to our sins because it’s easier to deny their seriousness or point the fingers at other “worst” sinners. Yet, we must see our sins and realize that none of us is worthy of heaven. Even Jesus’ disciples James and John had their “self-righteous” moments as reflected in their unrighteous anger (Luke 9:54) and prominence seeking request.

But when we see our sins, we see our need for our Savior. That’s the core, fundamental point of Lent. We need a savior; Jesus is that Savior. The gospel assures Jesus came to pay for our sins so “...*there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1).

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

Hymns: 413, 374, 313 (1-2), 262

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Hosea 5:15-6:3. Hosea’s plea to his people reveals the great grace of God. The Lord receives in mercy those who turn to Him in repentance and faith. “*Come, let us return to the Lord.*”

Psalms of the Day: Psalms 42-43. The psalmist offers praise to the LORD, who provides security for His people who have a continual thirst for the spiritual, soul quenching forgiveness of God’s word (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Romans 8:1-10. How beautiful is the gospel! “...*there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Christ has accomplished salvation by meeting the righteous demands of the law in our place. We now have a new spirit (New Man) who is led by the Holy Spirit.

Verse of the Day: For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16, EHV).

Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28. After the Savior speaks to His disciples of His approaching Passion, the mother of James and John comes to Him to request special honors for her sons in the kingdom. But Jesus responds by teaching them all the true meaning of greatness and honor before God. Greatness comes in service. And the Son of Man shows His own greatness in just this way: He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom.

Sermon: Matthew 20:17-28

Theme - “Jesus Fixes Us”

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Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament - The Bible stresses that our LORD is a God of grace. How is this point emphasized in this Old Testament lesson?
- Epistle - What is the status of those in Christ Jesus and how does that truth show itself in our lives?
- Epistle - According to Paul, who leads Christians to live for God?
- Epistle - What’s the distinction between “justification” and “sanctification”?
- Gospel - What request did the mother of James and John have?
- Gospel – What are your thoughts on “their” request?
- Gospel - How does Jesus’ define true greatness in the kingdom of God?

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!

+ Midweek Lenten worship: Wednesday, March 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

+ 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.

Hosea 5:15-6:3 - I will go. I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will earnestly seek me. Come, let us return to the LORD. For he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us. He has struck us, but he will bandage our wounds. After two days he will revive us. On the third day he will raise us up, so that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the LORD. Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD. As surely as the sun rises, the LORD will appear. He will come to us

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like a heavy rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth. (EHV™)

Romans 8:1-10 - So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness. (EHV™)

Matthew 20:17-28 - As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised." Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. He said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It will not be that way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (EHV™)