

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Easter 2

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As we continue to celebrate our Savior's Easter victory over sin and death, we note how, for the remaining "Sundays after Easter," our first Bible reading switches from the Old Testament to the New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles. In that reading from Acts, God's word pictures the believers filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly proclaiming the risen Savior of the world. The passion, death and resurrection are not chance history but occurred "*by God's set purpose and foreknowledge*" fulfilling HIStory in Scripture.

In our second Scripture lesson, Peter writes how Christ's resurrection from death gives us new birth into a living hope. Although Jesus is not visible to our physical eyes, faith gives us spiritual sight and fills us with daily, applicable confidence and joy.

Finally in our gospel lesson, John chronicles the Easter evening appearance of our risen Savior to His disciples in Jerusalem. He bids them peace and confers on them the power of the keys. Absent Thomas only expressed skepticism about Jesus' rising from the dead. Graciously, Jesus appeared to them a week later with Thomas present. Our Lord pointed "doubting Thomas" to God's word for certainty on our Savior fulfilled prophecy pertaining to His death and rising.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** "*Rite Two*" communion.
Hymns: 356, 355 (1-6), 313 (7-8), "I Love To Tell The Story"

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 2:1-4a, 22-32. Peter spares no harshness in hammering the law down against those who crucified Jesus. Our Lord demonstrated how He fulfilled prophecy as God's promised Messiah. Then, Peter points people to the truth that Jesus rose from the dead proving He is the all-powerful and only Savior.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 16. Jesus did not suffer decay while in the grave. He rose from the dead and, as our living Lord, will take us to the land of the living if we fall asleep to death before He returns (CW pg.68).

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9. Peter assures believers of the abiding blessings of comfort we have right now...in this life, although we go through challenges to our faith.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b, EHV™)

Gospel: John 20:19-31. On Easter evening, the glorified Jesus appeared to His disciples and announced peace to them. When Thomas refused to believe, Jesus, in love, appeared a second time to convince him of the resurrection and to repeat His message of peace. In love, God gives us His Word that we might also believe and have life in His name.

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Theme - "Rejoice In Your Living Hope"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First lesson: Agree/Disagree – Although God is always in control, He is not the Author of evil and doesn't will evil. Therefore, people must take personal responsibility for their own actions.
- First lesson: After pondering/answering the above point, how do Peter's thoughts from Acts 2:14-37 provide help in answer to this statement?
- Epistle: What does Peter mean when he says we as Christians have a living hope?
- Gospel: What is the "Ministry of the Keys?" (See pages 262-278 in the Catechism.
- Gospel: What kind of peace did Jesus mean when He told His disciples, "*Peace be with you?*"
- Gospel: Agree/Disagree – Personal experiences are more important for our faith in removing doubts than the word 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!

+ Maundy Thursday Worship: Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. (Faith Lutheran-Hillman)

+ Good Friday Worship: Friday @ 12:00 p.m. (Trinity Lutheran-Rogers City)

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m. No Sunday

School/Bible Class on Easter Sunday)

+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.

Acts 2:1-4a, 22-32 - Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. This man, who was

handed over by God's set plan and fore-knowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip. "Indeed, David says concerning him: I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced. My flesh also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon my life to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life. You will fill me with joy in your presence. "Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay. "This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that. (EHV™)

1 Peter 1:3-9 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time. Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (EHV™)

John 20:19-31 - On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe." After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (EHV™)