

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6134 US 23 North, Rogers City, MI 49779

(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Pastor Jeffery J. Luplow

Organist: Mrs. Diane Smuda

Pastor's Phone: 989-295-3240

Email: pastorjluplow@gmail.com

Easter 6

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Blessed Mother's Day to our mothers gifted with a child(ren) through physical birth, adoption or those who are mothers-at-heart! What a virtue mothers have as they nurture lambs to follow the Lamb of God and serve as God-pleasing Christian role models to lead others to Jesus!

In fact, Christian mothers can be a visible representative of our risen and ascended Savior. Today's gospel reviews Jesus' conversation with His disciples on Maundy Thursday evening, revealing how He would be betrayed and handed over to be crucified. Jesus' death would create a "temporary" absence until His resurrection.

But we remember, too, that Jesus would remove His visible presence from us at His ascension—occurring forty days after His resurrection. Since Jesus would be with His disciples "*only a little while longer*" (John 13:33), He left them and us comforting promises as we remain on this earth to carry out His gospel work while awaiting His return.

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

Hymns: 581, 392, 388, 564 (1-3, 5, 7)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31. Paul preaches before the meeting of the Areopagus in Athens. To these pagan Greeks the apostle proclaims the "unknown god"—the God who made the world and who calls all people to repentance and faith in the One whom He raised from the dead.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 66. In her song to her Lord, the Church calls on the world to give fitting praise to God for His blessings (CW pg.90).

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:15-22. Peter admonishes the faithful to be ready always to confess the hope they have in Jesus, particularly when they face hardship and persecution. In so doing they show the power of their baptisms by which they have been washed free of the guilt of sin and connected to Christ and His resurrection.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia. (John 14:23, EHV)

Gospel: John 14:15-21. Jesus' farewell discourse continues from the previous week. Jesus promises to send them the Holy Spirit and they are comforted that He will not leave them orphaned but will return to them. Jesus exhorts them to show love for their lord by giving loving obedience to his commands.

Sermon: Acts 17:22-31

Theme - "Keep Confessing Jesus As The Only True God"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First lesson: Some people suggest that we should "witness where people are at" in their understanding or lack of understanding about Christianity. Explain how Paul does so.
- First lesson: Agree/Disagree – Paul's approach to describing this group as "religious" is the same type of approach people use today in describing people as "spiritual."
- Epistle: What should we always be prepared to do?
- Epistle: In this section, what specific information does Peter provide that serves as a summary of our Christian belief?
- Gospel: Whenever we faithfully share God's law and gospel, we are "never alone." Who is working through our witness?

Announcements:

+ This past Sunday, May 7, the voters of Trinity and Faith Lutheran extended a **divine call to Pastor Dan Basel**. Please keep our respective congregations, as well as Pastor Basel and family, in prayer...especially as Pastor Basel decides how he can best continue serving Jesus.

+ 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.

Acts 17:22-31 - Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, 'To an unknown god.' Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'Indeed, we are also his offspring.' "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. Although God overlooked the times of ignorance,

he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” (EHV™)

1 Peter 3:15-22 - But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers. Indeed, it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God’s patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. (EHV™)

John 14:15-21 - “If you love me, hold on to my commands. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.” (EHV™)