

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Easter 7

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Today we officially “close” the Easter season. Yet, in all our preaching and teaching...in all our worship services we never stop proclaiming Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus’ rising from the dead is the heartbeat of our faith. St. Paul stresses: “...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is pointless, and your faith is pointless too... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20).

This past Thursday, the Christian Church officially celebrated our Savior’s ascension into heaven. Although Jesus has removed His visible presence from us, He is still with us personally until “the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Jesus has promised to send the Holy Spirit, which we remember especially as Pentecost approaches. Today, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit through His word and sacraments to carry out His Great Commission. We hear our Savior prayer for His believers as they carry out His will to witness Him to all.

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

Hymns: 50, 289 (1, 5-7), 325, 421

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-14. Luke recounts the ascension of Jesus and names the roster of the apostles.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 8. The majesty of the LORD’s name and His graciousness to humankind form the praise of the Church (*Supplement*).

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11. The glory and joy of the Easter season stand in contrast to the day-to-day reality of the world with its sufferings and temptations. But the mature in Christ are not surprised that trials and suffering remain integral parts of their lives in this world. They do not forget the evil foe and his desire to devour. However, those who have been connected with Christ and His resurrection by baptism look upon their suffering with eyes of faith, and trust in the eternal goodness of God.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.” Alleluia (John 14:18, EHV).

Gospel: John 17:1-11a. Jesus closes His farewell discourse to His disciples on the eve of His betrayal with His “High Priestly Prayer.” In it, our Lord prays that the Father will glorify His Son so that He may glorify the Father. His glory is this: that His people know Him as the One sent from the Father who has fulfilled the will of God and won salvation. The Lord also prays that His disciples would be kept safe in the world. They are not of the world, but they are in the world. Jesus’ prayer continues to comfort us today, for in it, the Lord shows once more—even in the midst of His own anguish before the cross—how dear and precious His own are to him!

Sermon: John 17:1-11a

Theme - “Jesus Prays The Perfect Prayer”

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Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- First lesson: Right before Jesus removed His visible presence from us at His ascension, what does Jesus say we are to be until He comes again (v.8)?
- Epistle: Instead of being “surprised” by trials in this sin-fallen world, what does Peter direct us to do?
- Epistle: In view of life’s anxieties and the ever-present temptation of Satan to lead us from God, what does Peter commend us to do?
- Gospel: What are two requests of Jesus in His High Priestly Prayer?

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.

Acts 1:1-14 - I wrote my first book, *Theophilus*, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said these

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things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their

sight. They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (EHVTM)

1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 - Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God? Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world. After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (EHVTM)

John 17:1-11a - After Jesus had spoken these things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. For you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he may give eternal life to all those you have given him. This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed. "I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me. "I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you." (EHVTM)