

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Jesus told His disciples and naturally us as His modern-day disciples: *"In this world you are going to have trouble. But be courageous! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33, EHVTM). Due to a world soiled by sin, troubles come upon Christians in the form of persecution because of the Christian faith. Yet, Jesus has assured that He "overcame" this world of sin and persecution.

In fact, when experiencing the crucible of temptations and trials, Jesus relates how His overcoming the word applies to us. He promises us through Paul: *"God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13, EHVTM). That "Way" out is Jesus who is *"the Way, the Truth and the Life"* (John 14:6, EHVTM).

Truly, God graces us with His word and sacraments to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith in all situations. Through the word and in spite of trials, we engage others with Jesus in keeping with St. Peter's instruction: *"But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give a reason for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15, EHVTM). The good news of the gospel makes us bold to give that divinely, hope-filled answer...to confess Jesus.

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

Hymns: 587, 261, 319 (1, 5), 602

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Jeremiah 20:7-13. The faithful prophet, Jeremiah, preached the LORD's judgment against sin. On the one hand, he wanted to quit preaching to avoid persecution at the hands of his countrymen. On the other hand, he could not hold back Spirit-borne zeal for the LORD that burned within him. The same conflicting forces remain at war within us. To whom can we turn for help? We confidently commit our cause to the Lord Almighty, who will move us to witness Him even to our oppressors.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 31. David echoes the confidence that Jeremiah just gave us. Surrounded by forces of evil, we commit ourselves into the hands of the true LORD—our Rock, Refuge, and Fortress (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Romans 5:12-15. Sin is never alone. It is always accompanied by death. All of Adam's children die as Adam did because all of us inherited Adam's sin. But, thanks to God for sending the second Adam, Jesus Christ! Jesus' death restored holiness and life to all of Adam's children.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" Alleluia. (Galatians 4:6, EHV)

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-33. Jesus plainly tells us about the cross we will bear as His disciples. We can expect the unbelieving world to treat us no better than it treated our Master. What a comfort to know that our life, death, and eternal future, however, remain in the hands of a God who gives loving attention to creatures far less significant than we are! He even takes careful inventory of the smallest details of our lives. Therefore, we boldly and cheerfully proclaim His gospel in a hostile world.

Sermon: Matthew 10:24-33

Theme - "Stop Being Afraid!"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Describe Jeremiah's state of mind.
- Old Testament: How did Jeremiah deal with the persecution he experienced because of his faith?
- Epistle: Sin is never "alone." What does Paul say is sin's consequence?
- Epistle: The first man, Adam, brought sin and its consequence upon all people. What blessing does Jesus, the "second Adam," bring?
- Gospel: How would we describe the "Christian's cross"?
- Gospel: What confidence do Christians have in spite of our cross?

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: 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School: summer recess.

+ 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.

Jeremiah 20:7-13 - You persuaded me, LORD, and I agreed to it. You are stronger than I am, and you won out. I have become a laughingstock all day

long, and everyone is mocking me. Whenever I speak, I cry out. I cry out, “Violence and destruction!” But the word of the LORD has brought scorn on me. I am mocked all day long. If I say, “I will not mention him or speak in his name anymore,” then there is a burning fire in my heart, shut up in my bones, and I am weary of holding it in. I cannot! I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” All my close friends, those who are watching for my fall, say, “Denounce him! Let’s denounce him. Perhaps he can be pressured into making a mistake. Then we will have the upper hand against him, and we will take our revenge on him.” But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior. So my persecutors will stumble, and they will not gain the upper hand. They will be put to shame completely, because they have not been successful. Their eternal disgrace will never be forgotten. LORD of Armies, you test the righteous. You see the heart and the mind. Let me see your vengeance on them, for I have laid out my case before you. Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD, for he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of the wicked. (EHV™)

Romans 5:12-15 - So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one’s account if there is no law, and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. But the gracious gift is not like Adam’s trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God’s grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many! (EHV™)

Matthew 10:24-33 - “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! “So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. “Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (EHV™)