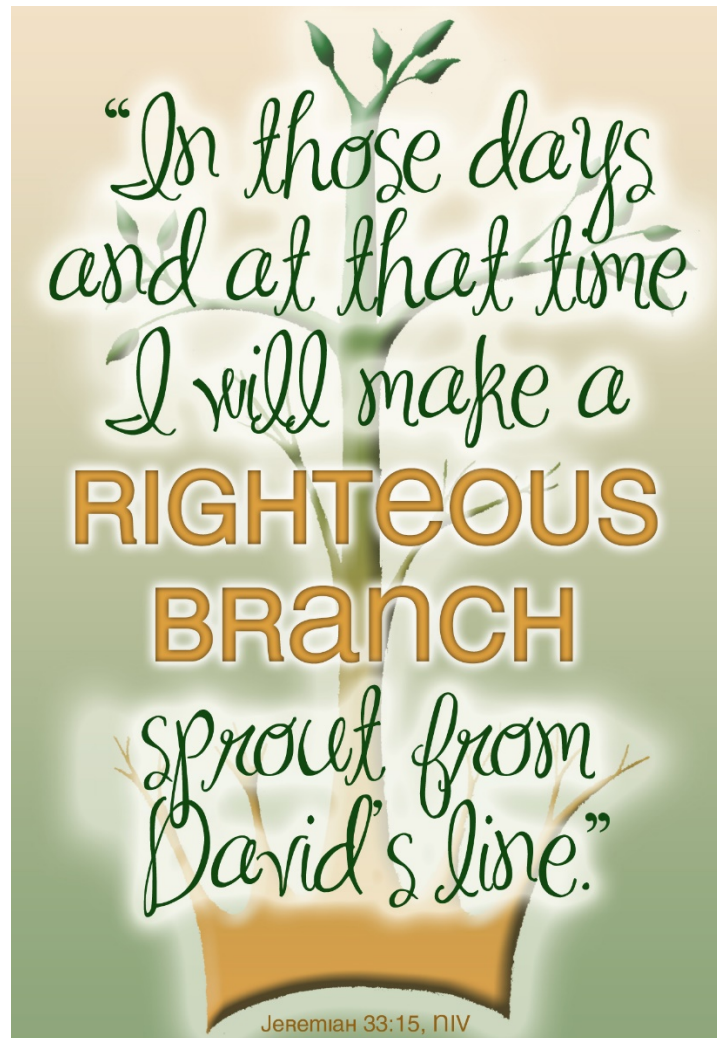


Mission Congregation of the ELCA  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Jeremiah 33:14-18  
December 3, 2023



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page,  
our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.

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## GATHERING

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- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**
- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**R:** Jeremiah proclaims the promise:

**C:** **The days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

**R:** I will appoint a righteous ruler and my people will be saved.

**C:** *(light candle 1)* **This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise**

**\* CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

**P:** Ever-present God,

**C:** **We come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.**

**P:** The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness.

**C:** **Amen.**

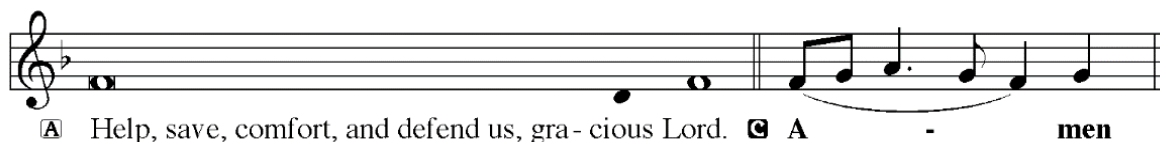
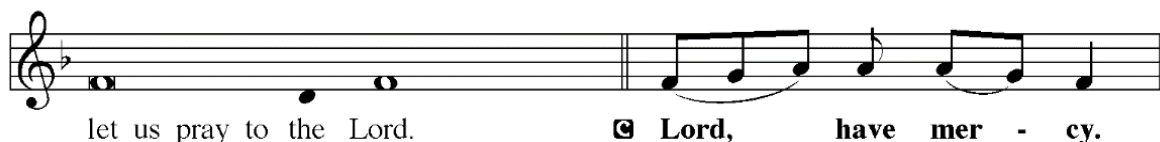
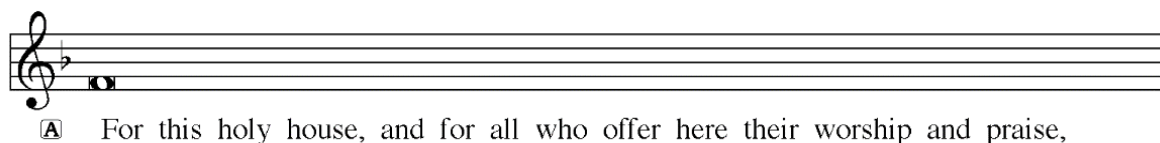
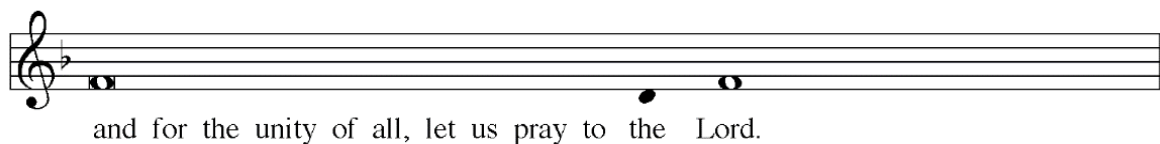
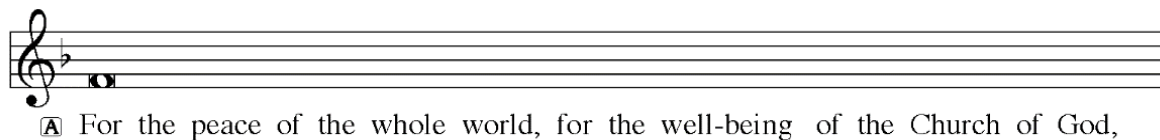
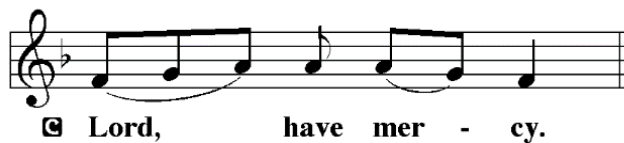
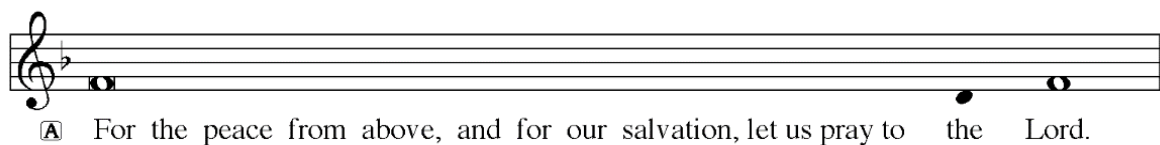
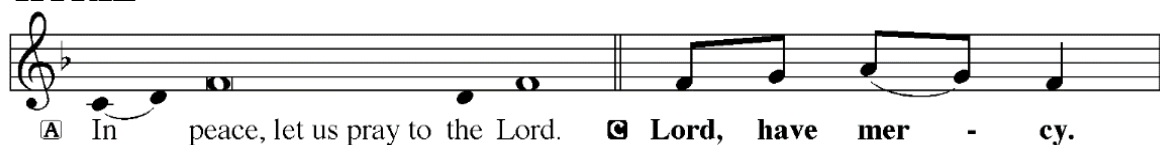
**\* GATHERING SONG    “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”    LBW 34**

**\* APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:**    The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:**    **And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE**



\* **HYMN OF PRAISE**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of promise, stir up in us the anticipation of this holy season of waiting. Fill our hearts with hope for the messiah's coming, and give us patience, for your time is not our time, and we do not know the day or the hour.

C: **Amen.**

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## WORD

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### • CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



**Theme:** Promise of Jesus was made long ago  
**Materials:** Small Tree Branch  
**Scripture:** Jeremiah 33:14-18

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. Have you ever heard of a family tree? People sometimes use a tree to help describe how all the members of our families are related to each other. For example the base of the tree represents the mother and the father of the family. Then the shoots can each can represent the children of the parents. Now when those shoots grow up and have children of their own they would be the grandchildren of the parents at the base of our family tree. (SLIDE) Here's another way to help us understand all our family relationships...

The Bible talks about family trees too. Like the time when God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and said, "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." King David would be way down toward the base of this family tree. God said through the prophet Jeremiah that a new branch would come from the family tree of King David. That branch or child would be our righteous Lord because He would act with righteousness and justice in all the land. That means He would have no sin and always do the things God would want Him to do. In other words this branch would be the perfect branch and because it's the perfect branch it will save all the other branches! Yeah!

Where do you think this new branch from the family tree of King David would be? Do you know who else belongs in this family tree? You do! Everyone in this Church belongs in this family too. Jesus was in David's family because he was born from others who were also part of David's family, but we are members, not because of our birth family, but because of our Baptismal family. When you were Baptized, you were grafted or patched into this family tree. So, you are really not just related to the people here in this Church, but you are also related to every Baptized Christian every where on the whole earth and all the Baptized people in Heaven too. I'll bet you had no idea your family was so huge! It's amazing!

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus and the gift of Baptism. We are part of your family and we want to be like Jesus, so please help us to do the things that make you happy. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-18**

P: Our scripture reading is from the prophet Jeremiah, the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

<sup>17</sup>For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, <sup>18</sup>and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)**

- **SERMON**

**Pr Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the righteous branch that has saved Israel, Judah, and all of us, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Have you seen any of the three Marvel Comics movies called Guardians of the Galaxy? (SLIDE) I think there's three of them out so far. The first two were pretty good and featured some classic music from the 1970s. Ever since the first Guardians came out back in 2014, one of my favorite characters has been this guy... (SLIDE) His name is Groot. In the first movie Groot was thought to have been killed off. He sacrificed his own life to save his friends. Sound familiar? His best friend, a talking Raccoon, named Rocket, refused to

believe Groot was really dead, so he planted a small part of Groot into a planter. In the second movie, guess what -- A branch is growing in the pot! No matter what that branch says, it always comes out, "I am Groot." The other characters in the movie can somehow understand him. The whole interaction between Groot and the others, especially with Rocket, the talking Raccoon, is a highlight of these movies for me. Here's the thing. Sometimes once you think of something you just can't unthink it. Every time I read from the scriptures where God is going to cause a righteous branch to sprout from David's lineage or a branch will sprout from the stump of Jesse, now I can't get the image of Groot out of my mind! I mean, there's Jesus in the manger and his first words to mother Mary are, "I am Groot!" (SLIDE) Then there's all those miracle stories of Jesus turning water into wine or healing the 10 lepers, or making the blind to see and after each miracle, Jesus simply says, "I am Groot!" (SLIDE) How about those thieves on the cross next to Jesus, one who derides Jesus and the other who begs Jesus to remember him. To both, Jesus proclaims, "I am Groot!" (SLIDE) And Finally, on the road to Emmaus, after the crucifixion, Jesus was opening and explaining all the scriptures, including all the prophecies which predict his birth, life, and death, but those two disciples don't recognize Jesus until he proclaims, "I am Groot!" Then their eyes are opened and they say to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

I'm sorry if my brain works a little differently, but now I smile when I read these prophecies about Jesus...

God's promise of a Savior isn't some new development that began after "Plan One" failed and humankind fell into deep sin. God's promise was "baked in" all the way back to the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, God still loved them. Scripture says God made them clothing out of the skins of animals. (SLIDE) Most of my life I read that verse and glossed right over it. Then one day it occurred to me that animals had to sacrifice their lives in order for God to make clothing for the world's first exiles. Animals have been sacrificed for human sin ever since, until God finally brought forth a righteous branch from the stump of Jesse for David. No amount of animal sacrifices could ever cover up human depravity and sin. No amount of animal skins could cover up such wanton rebellion against God. At least not until God brought out his final and ultimate sacrifice his only son, Groot, er, I mean, Jesus! (SLIDE)

I could talk about Marvel Comic Movies all day, but it's time to get serious about this prophecy and this prophet, Jeremiah. Jeremiah lived during the last days of the southern Kingdom of Judah. Israel had split from the united Kingdoms and was subsequently destroyed by the Assyrians. God first called

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

Jeremiah as a teenager to warn God's people to repent or face the consequences of their sin. Over and over again Jeremiah brought God's Word of judgment to the King, but he would not listen. Now Jeremiah is watching his beloved homeland of Judah crumble before his eyes. This time it was the Babylonians who had already raided many of the key towns, cities, and villages of Judah. Even now, the capital city of Jerusalem is under siege. (SLIDE) Jeremiah tried to make the people understand their problem was a lack of belief, trust, and faith in God, along with an absence of fear that caused them to take God for granted. (Nothing like our situation today...) It's easy to be lulled into a false sense of security, especially when your focus isn't on God. The nation of Israel, just like many nations today, had stopped putting God first and had replaced Him with false gods. We like our God to not make us feel guilty or convict us of our sin. In the Bible we read of God's mighty acts of power in delivering God's people from bondage in Egypt. We read about God performing miracle after miracle, even parting the waters of the Red Sea for his people to walk across on dry land. In spite of all these displays of God's power and God's love for all people, we continue to return to the same old false practices and false idols. (SLIDE) Humans will never learn. Generation after generation we make the same mistakes over and over again. It's almost like

there's no way we could ever, on our own esteem or merit, work our way out of this sin problem.

The truth is we have no righteousness of our own. We are all bound to our sinful nature. (SLIDE) All we have is this rotting old sinful flesh. From the time we're born we're already rotting away. Humans have no other road to travel, except death and destruction. Even the best humans who ever lived have no hope without God. On our own the best hope of humanity is a grave. It's a good thing God NEVER leaves us alone, ever! God's been making sacrifices for us from the beginning. From the Garden of Eden until Jeremiah was about 4000-5000 years, then from Jeremiah to the birth of Jesus another 600 or so years. The promise of Christmas, first made in the Garden of Eden took about 5000 years before that righteous branch finally took root. (SLIDE) Humanity had been waiting for God to bring forth this righteous branch, Groot, for a long, long time.

Considering humanity had been waiting for the coming Messiah for all those years, it's not that much to ask of us to wait a little bit for Christmas each year. The Season of Advent is only about 4 weeks long. Considering how long God's promises stood before becoming flesh and blood, it certainly doesn't seem unreasonable for us to wait a few weeks. Having said that, I have zero patience for waiting. I mean PJ and I already have our Christmas gifts for each other. (SLIDE)

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

New desk chairs for our home offices went on sale at Sam's Club and well, who can wait anyway? ... We're probably not the only ones who are guilty of not wanting to wait. Our modern culture was built on instant gratification. (SLIDE) We crave the instant high brought on by clicking on stuff on Facebook and elsewhere on the internet. Studies have shown brain chemicals and hormones are released that give us instant pleasure when we click and the screen changes. One click on Amazon and your wildest dreams can be delivered by 10:00 pm tomorrow. Now where's my credit card again... ...

There is a righteous branch that has sprung up for David. His name was not Groot, but Jesus. (SLIDE) This Jesus famously said he did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill the Law. He did what no other human being ever could. Jesus is the Lord, He is Our Righteousness. He doesn't enable you to live sin free, he lived sin free for you. And it cost him his life, by the way... It's not your faith in Jesus that saves you and all Jerusalem, it's the faith of Jesus that saves you and all people. He is our righteousness!

May the Lord's righteous branch, Jesus Christ be your righteousness today. May you stop trying to live up to God's impossibly high standards and start simply living in Christ where safety, security and real joy abide. May your home be there, now and forever, amen.

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

**\* NICENE CREED**

*The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.*

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L:** In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**L:** Holy God, you inspired the prophets to bring good news to a world in pain. Continue to give us hope when we are faced with despair. God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

**L:** Just as your people cried out for your help, so all of creation cries out for restoration and healing. Spur us to action in caring for all that you have made.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

December 3, 2023

Page 13 of 22

God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: Raise up prophets among us to speak your truth and call us into the work of justice and equity for all people. God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: Bring healing and wholeness to those who are living with physical or mental illness or other difficulties, (*especially...*) Help us to show your comfort and care through our support of them and those who care for them. God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: Strengthen peacemakers in war-torn communities throughout the world (*especially...*), that all might work together to bring about your reign of justice and peace for all people. God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Throughout history you have uplifted leaders in the church whose commitment to your word sustained the priesthood of all believers. Help us to follow their example in providing leadership for our faith communities until we are united with them at the end of time. God of Promise,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

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## MEAL

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**\* OFFERING**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet, may you go to our website located at [www.pitsburgtlc.org](http://www.pitsburgtlc.org) where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*While the congregation is standing say:*

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\* Please stand if able

December 3, 2023

• Please be seated

Page 14 of 22

P: Let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Holy God, you have given us all we need, material and immaterial, even to the gift of your own Son. Receive now our gifts as a sign of our gratitude and faithfulness to you, and use them for your good work in the world.

C: Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### \* DIALOGUE

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

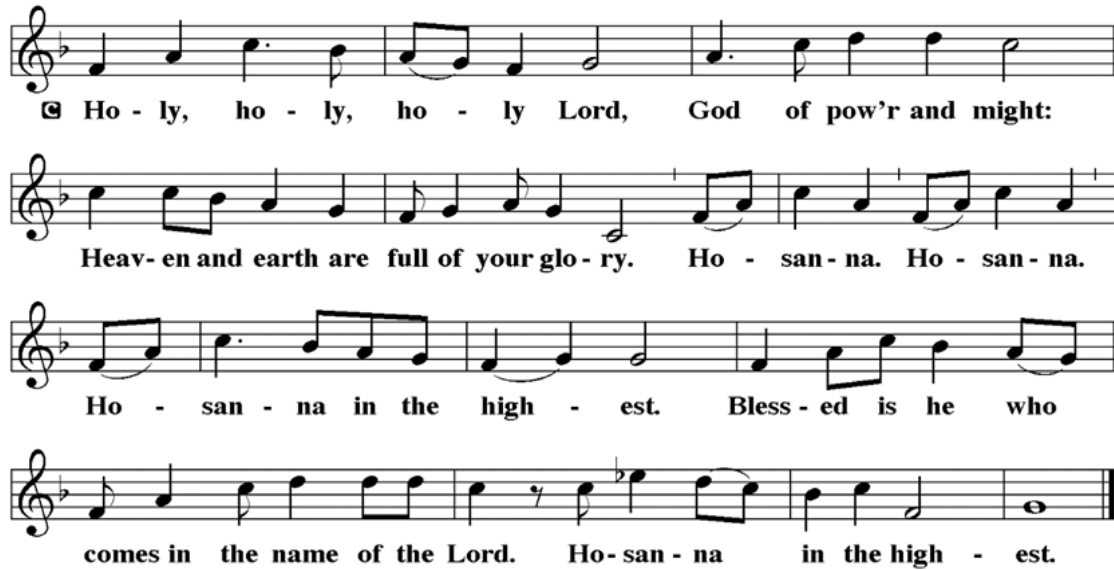
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### \* THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\* **THE SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

\* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world..

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit upon us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: **Amen**

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

December 3, 2023

Page 16 of 22

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Christ Jesus, who is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, invites you to feast in his just and holy reign. Come share in the bread and wine that is Christ's body and blood, and be strengthened for this time of waiting.

**• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Communion is by "Station". Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: Amen.*

**\* POST COMMUNION BLESSING** *(Only include this when Communion is By Station, each group receives this blessing while still kneeling, before leaving the railing)*

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unify us, now and forever, amen.

**\* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\* POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

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**SENDING**

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**• ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\* **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Until the next time we gather together as God’s people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ’s Love.

**C:** **Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**

\* **POSTLUDE**

**Roxanne Groff**

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**Health Tips for the Week**

**MIND:** Read a Christmas story that you have never read.

**BODY:** Take a walk through the mall.

**SPIRIT:** Start preparing to send out Christmas cards.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Isaiah 40:1-11

### Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Peggy Didier
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

### *This Week @ Trinity – December 3 thru December 10, 2023*

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>Sun, Dec. 3</b>	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
	11:30 am	Children's Christmas Program Practice
<b>Mon, Dec. 4</b>	7:30 pm	Dartball at Trinity vs. EUM
<b>Wed, Dec. 6</b>	11:30 am	WELCA Meeting
	6:30 pm	Advent Soup Supper/Devotion
<b>Thurs, Dec. 7</b>	10:00 am	Youth & Family Ministry Team Meeting
<b>Fri, Dec. 8</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sat, Dec. 9</b>	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Program Practice

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

December 3, 2023

Page 20 of 22

<b>Sun, Dec. 10</b>	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Children's Christmas Program

### SAVE THE DATE!

- **December 6, 13, 20 – Advent Soup Supper & Devotion @ 6:30 PM**
- **December 10 – Children's Christmas Program**
- **December 15 & 16, 23 & 23 – Bell ringing at Walmart**
- **December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship – 4:00 & 10:00 pm**

### **Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:**

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.



### **Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3**

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

### **ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY!!**

**PEPPERONI KIT PIZZAS** (Gluten free also available), **SUBS**, and **PRETZELS** from Piqua Pizza Supply are being sold by the Trinity WELCA ladies. Just sign up on the order form on the table outside the church office or take an order form to pursue orders from your friends and family OR you can even call Bev Erdmann at 937-621-6748 to place an order ... **BUT** ... Orders are due by **Dec. 3!** Delivery will be Dec. 16-17.

Pizza Kit (2 per pack) = \$16.00

Sub Kit (3 per pack) = \$16.00

Gluten free Pizza Kit (2 per pack) = \$19.00

Pretzels (3 oz. each – 12 per pack) = \$19.00

### **Trinity Contact Info**

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

December 3, 2023

Page 21 of 22

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	<a href="mailto:pastor@pitsburgtlc.org">pastor@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@pitsburgtlc.org">secretary@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	<a href="http://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a>



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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated