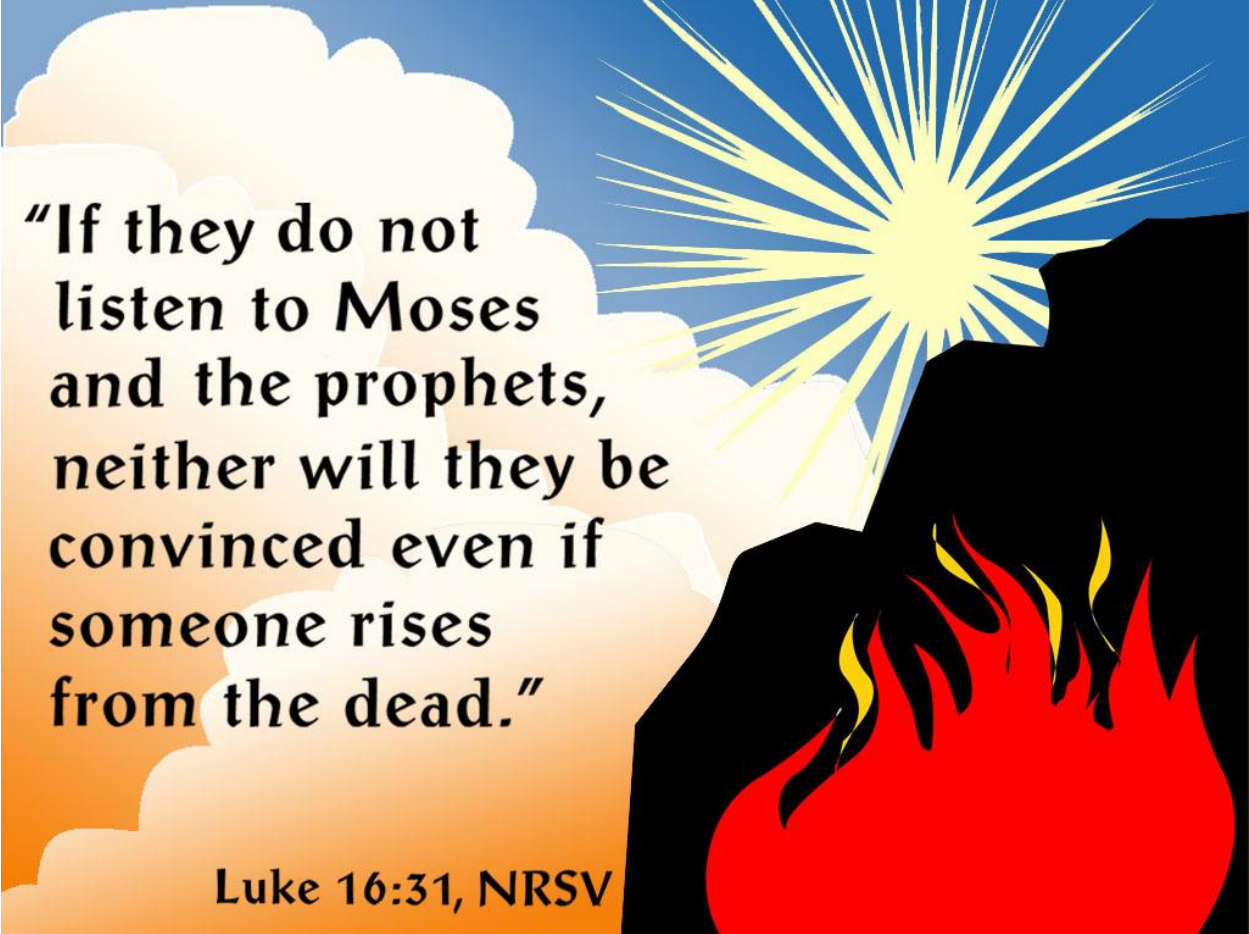


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA  
**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



**"If they do not  
listen to *Moses*  
and the prophets,  
neither will they be  
convinced even if  
someone rises  
from the dead."**

**Luke 16:31, NRSV**

**Luke 16:19-31**  
**March 30, 2025**



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** **Pam Sherman**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr. Mel Musser**

**\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

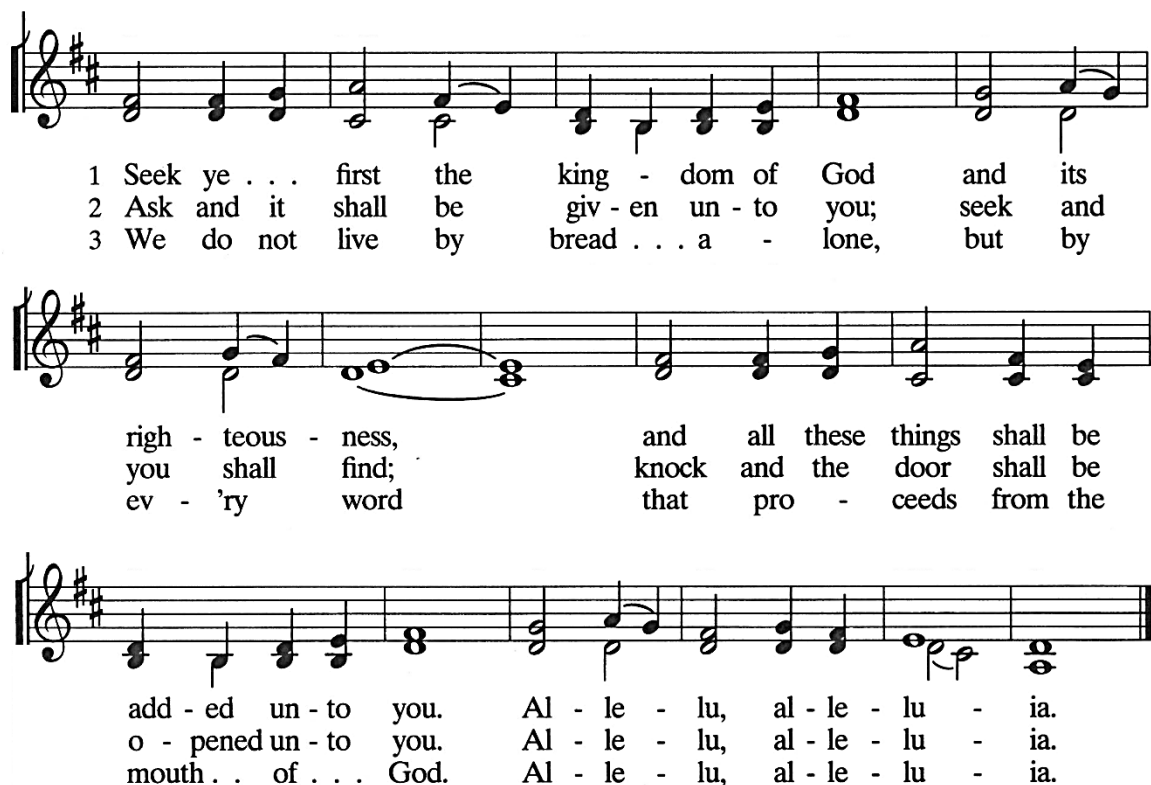
P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

\* **GATHERING HYMN** “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” **WOV 783**



1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

\* **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.**

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY.**

P: Let us pray... Holy God, we are daily bombarded by messages telling us we need to acquire more at the expense of ourselves and others. Relieve us of our self-absorption, and call us back to the path you would have us walk, O God, and walk alongside us. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

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**WORD**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



**Theme:** Trading Places

**Materials:** Pictures of Famous Actors, Athletes Dollar Bills, and A Sign that says “Will Work For Food”

**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

Hello girls and boys. I hope you all had a great week. Today we're talking about trading places with someone. (SLIDE) Have you ever wished you could trade places with a famous actor like , one of these famous actors? How about a greatest of all time athlete? Wouldn't it be great to have all their talent and fame and fortune? (SLIDE) Have you ever wanted to trade places with a homeless person who lives on the streets and has to beg for food? That wouldn't be quite as fun...

In today's Bible story, Jesus tells about a rich man who dressed in fine clothing and had so much food it was like a party every day at his house. The trouble is a very poor man, named Lazarus lay right outside his door and the rich man never gave him even the scraps from his table. When they both died, Lazarus was carried to heaven by the angels, but the rich man went down to that other place, where he was very hot and had nothing even to drink. The rich man called out to Father Abraham in heaven and wanted to trade places with Lazarus, but it was too late for him.

Jesus told this story because he wanted his followers to open our eyes and see those around us who are in need and then to help them. We are fortunate because we are still alive and we still have the ability to help those who we see who are in need of food or clothing or anything else that we can help them with. Jesus once said if you help these people like Lazarus, you're really helping Jesus.

I wouldn't be willing to trade places with a homeless person, but I know someone who did change places with me and with each of us. Jesus took our place on the cross and died for us, in all of our places. Jesus gave up his place in heaven with God to come down here to earth to be one of us so that we could be with God forever.

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for opening our eyes to see those around us who are in need. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help them when we can. Thank you for forgiving us and taking our place on the cross and making a place for us with you and our heavenly Father forever. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 16.

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

19“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ 25But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ 27He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—28for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ 29Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ 30He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## “The Invitation”

**Larry Harter**

- **SERMON**

**Pr. Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who returned  
from the dead so you might have life, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

I have of the most tongue-y dogs I've ever seen. (SLIDE) I mean Pipper and Kimber love to lick. They will lick your hand, your arms, your feet, even your

face, if you let them. I usually do... Melanie always does... When we go on vacation, (SLIDE) if we have a choice to leave them with a professional dog sitter or take them with us, I always ask PJ if we are to leave them behind, then she has to be willing to lick my face for at least 15 minutes each day we're gone. We usually take the puppies with us...

(SLIDE) In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, I used to think how yucky it was that poor Lazarus was laying there being licked by the dogs. I'm still aware that dogs like to lick many things I wouldn't necessarily want transferred to my face or hands or arms, but I'm also aware of the joy and comfort the love of a dog can provide. Poor Lazarus wasn't even seen by the rich man in life. I mean the rich man literally stepped over Lazarus every day as he was going out and coming back into his home. Before we get to self-righteous and sanctimonious, can we really condemn the rich man for not helping Lazarus when he never even saw him lying there?

Part of the earthly ministry of Jesus was to open our eyes of faith, enabling us to see our neighbor in those who are poor. Remember Luke is the Gospel writer who states things very concretely. For example, in Luke's version of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, (SLIDE) Jesus says blessed are the poor, the hungry, and those who mourn. It's Matthew who spiritualizes the beatitudes by saying blessed

are the poor in spirit, those who hunger for righteousness. Luke wants us to understand Jesus' ministry in a much more literal sense. This is the essence of the Gospel. Jesus says blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. He adds, woe to the rich, for they have already received their compensation... One way to understand the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus is Jesus using this story as a sermon illustration (SLIDE) to give us a picture of what the beatitudes would look like played out in real life. Most preachers would say something like this story shows us our need to take care of the poor who are at our gates. The problem I have with that kind of interpretation is it isn't Gospel, nor is it good news. I mean preaching terror isn't the Gospel. Preaching what *we* need to do is always law, never Gospel. Yet, that does seem to be the consequences of the rich man's neglect of poor old Laz--do more good or face eternal punishment! Doesn't sound much like the Gospel to me... The truth is, taken in this way, the only Good News I can find is for people who are as poor as poor old Lazarus. What about the rest of us? That got me to thinking... How much wealth does it take to make a person one of the Rich Men, like in this parable. (SLIDE) We might have asked that question in another way, in another parable, when we focused in on who is my neighbor, from the parable of the Good Samaritan. We could set a dollar amount or go according to the square footage of your home. We might use a gauge like how new or old your automobile is, but any of these measures would be splitting

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

hairs. In our country, even most of our poor people would be considered very wealthy according to Lazarus. So, where is the Gospel in this story. By monetary standards, we're all the Rich Man. We all deserve the same treatment as the Rich Man after his death.

Just this past Friday some of us were working at the Choice FISH Pantry.

(SLIDE) It was a pretty busy afternoon as we had served 17 families with over 50 individuals. We were closing up and all the food that was set out on the shelves had already put back into the cooler, refrigerators, and freezers. I was carrying out the box of groceries for our last customer when I noticed a very unkempt man with what appeared to be all his belongings in several rolling suitcases on the sidewalk across the street. He left his belongings and headed my way. As he approached, he demanded I let him in to get some food. I informed him that we were already closed and I was just carrying out the last customer's food. That didn't even slow him down. He insisted I let him in to get some food or he would call the police on me... So, I let him in. When he got inside, he told us his house had recently burned to the ground and he was living with his mother. He had no food and only the items on his back and the things in his suitcases, which he had left on the sidewalk across the street. Someone grabbed a box and started to take the man around, allowing him to pick the items he thought he could use, given his

circumstances. By the time he was on his way, loaded down with all the food he could carry, we had stayed nearly a half hour past our normal quitting time, but none of us regretted staying. I don't know if his story was real, imagined, or if God had sent him to test our character and our commitment. I'm ashamed to admit I tried to turn him away, but I thank God I was surrounded by so many compassionate, loving followers of Jesus who helped this man despite my initial reluctance. We can all be like that Rich Man from time to time. On the other hand, since we all have sinned and fall far short of the glory of our loving God, we're more like the rich man's siblings who have the opportunity to listen and obey, not just to Moses and the prophets, but also our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the one who literally rose from the dead and calls us to take up our cross every day to follow Him. I regret my initial skepticism and attempt to turn this poor man away, but I thank God for all those who were there last Friday to keep me on the path of compassion...

I read a story about a hospice nurse who began keeping track of the regrets her patients expressed as they faced their own deaths. Not surprisingly, people never regretted missing out on a big promotion or having a bigger house or a fancier car. The top 5 regrets were: 5. I wish that I had let myself be happier. 4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends. 3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my

feelings. 2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard. 1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me. Some people have lots of regrets, others say they don't regret a single thing. (SLIDE) Most people have heard of Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, founders of Apple, but you might have never heard about Ron Wayne. He was also one of Apple's founders. He owned 10% of Apple in those very early days and was instrumental in creating the Apple Logo. Before the company went public Ron sold his 10% share to the 2 Steves and left the company. He says the decision was based on a \$15,000 loan they had taken out, and he was afraid he might be left holding the bag if Apple went under. If Ron Wade had held onto his 10% today it would be worth well over \$37 Billion! Yet, Ron says to this day he has no regrets. He says he made the best decision he could, given the information he had at the time. When your time comes to take your final breath on this side of the grave, will you have regrets or will you be able to say you made the best choices, given the information you had at the time?

Lazarus never got the choice to live a happier life. (SLIDE) For him, happiness would have been a scrap of meat from the rich man's table that never came while the rich man stepped over him every day. The rich man's regrets might be something like: I wish I had helped the people I knew more. Or... I wish I had listened to Moses, the prophets and Jesus. Or... I wish I'd had the courage to

live a life true to myself, in which my actions were in line with my beliefs. In other words, a life of ethical integrity... The Good News for us is we are not yet in the afterlife calling out to Father Abraham for a thimble of cool water. We're not stuck in a place of regretting we didn't do enough, that we didn't choose wisely, that we didn't have enough time. As long as we're still breathing, God gives us another day to care for the people around us, listen to the Word of God, and live a life that is true to our deepest convictions -- All three are good things to contemplate during our Lenten journey...

May we listen and obey the one man who did die and was raised from the dead. (SLIDE) May the good news of Jesus' call to repentance move our hearts and enable our hands to heed God's will for this world. May we, *may I*, never turn away one of God's Children just because they arrive 10 minutes late to the party... Thanks be to God for the great cloud of witnesses, especially those still alive and serving shoulder to shoulder with us every day. May we hold each other accountable in our serving, so that together, none of us will have the same regrets as the rich man in today's parable. Thanks be to God for all of you and may God bless you as you serve God by serving your neighbor. Amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY** “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” LBW 423



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.

\* **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: With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

L: Open our eyes to the ways in which our financial practices cause harm to other people, sustaining systems that perpetuate poverty. Turn us away from our self-concern that we might work for lasting change that brings equity to all people. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Open our eyes to the ways in which our material practices cause harm to your creation. Inspire us to advocate for the wellbeing of the natural world, and to create and enact policies that center its care. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Open our eyes to the ways in which our governments cause harm to the marginalized. Make us to hold our elected leaders to the ideals of equality for all people. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Open our eyes to the ways in which those around us are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Help us to provide loving care, healing, and wholeness to all who struggled, (*especially...*) Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Open our eyes to the ways in which our social practices cause harm to those who are not exactly like us. Teach us true hospitality, and help us to welcome all people. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Be with those who are passing from this life into the next. May they be comforted and brought deep peace. Help us to remember them with gratitude, and be strengthened by their example to us. Merciful God,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray.

**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 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**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ... Merciful God, we know that nothing we have is our own. Receive now these gifts, and bless them for the work of caring for all those in need, on our own doorsteps and in communities around the world.

**C: Amen.**

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: United into one through Jesus Christ Our Lord, we 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.**

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## SENDING

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- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- \* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

- \* **SENDING HYMN “Glories of Your Name Are Spoken” LBW 358**



1 Glo - ries of your name are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;  
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,  
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov-'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem - ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.  
well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.  
for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.



On the Rock of A - ges found-ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?  
Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
Fad - ing are the world-ings' plea-sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur-round-ed, you may smile at all your foes.  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.  
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.  
sol - id joys and last - ing trea-sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 30, 2025

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\* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well. We're glad you're with us today. 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**

**Pam Sherman**

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**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Robby Arling
Acolyte	Callie Schmitmeyer
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser



Scripture readings for next Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Luke 18:31 – 19:10

**Health Tips for the Week**

**MIND:** Write 5 items you love about yourself.

**BODY:** Get your vision checked.

**SPIRIT:** Listen to your favorite Christian artists.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 30, 2025

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**This Week @ Trinity – March 30 thru April 6, 2025:**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>Sun, March 30</b>		
	9:00 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts) w/Greg Hickman, Lawyers Direct
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Mary Piel Birthday Reception
<b>Wed, April 2</b>	11:30 am	WELCA Meeting
	6:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper/Devotion
<b>Thurs, April 3</b>	10:00 am	Youth & Family Ministry Meeting
<b>Fri, April 4</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, April 6</b>	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

**Save The Date!**

<b>Wednesdays - April 2 &amp; 9 @ 6:00 pm</b>	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible Study Discussion
<b>Saturday, April 12</b>	Trash Bash Youth Fundraiser
<b>April 17 @ 7:00 pm</b>	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
<b>April 18 @ 7:00 pm</b>	Good Friday Worship Service
<b>April 20 @ 8:00 am</b>	Early Worship Service
<b>9:15 am</b>	Easter Breakfast
<b>9:45 am</b>	Easter Egg Hunt
<b>10:30 am</b>	Late Worship Service



**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.

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

**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 Contact Info**

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