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



Mark 8:27 – 9:8 February 11, 2024



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page.

• Prelude

Roxanne Groff

Pr Mel Musser

- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Welcome
 - **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

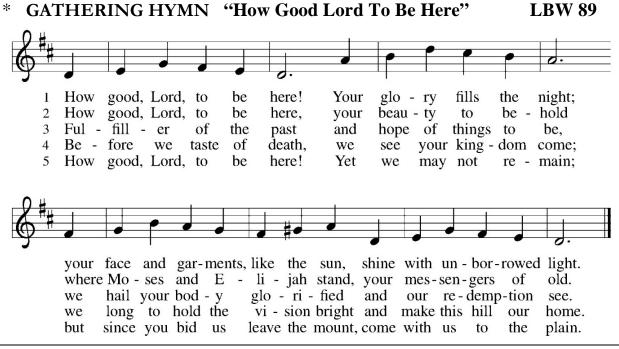
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

- P: Guiding God,
- C: We have failed to follow you as we ought. We have not reached out to our neighbors with the selfless and sacrificial love you modeled for us. We have caused harm to others and your creation by our actions and by our unwillingness to act. Forgive us our sins and lead us back onto the path you have trod for the sake of others.
- P: In Christ, God meets us where we are and as we are and for his sake, God makes us whole and holy. Go forth to follow Jesus in the knowledge that your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.



^{*} Please stand if able

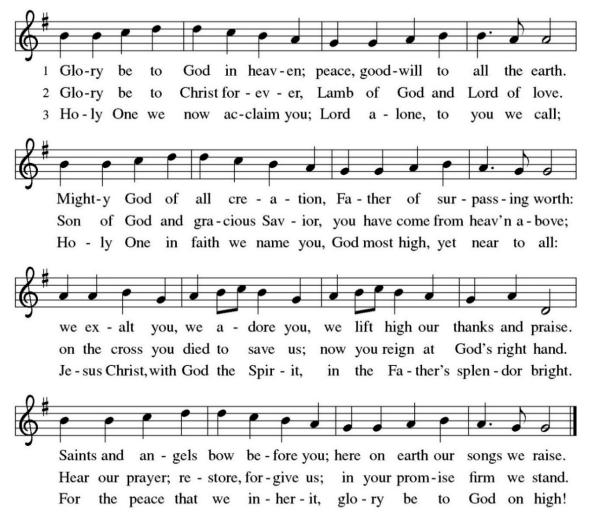
• Please be seated

February 11, 2024 Page 2 of 21

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** * 0 peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have In Α mer cy. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to Α the Lord. C Lord, have mer cy. A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, Ο and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, Α O let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer cy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **Q** A Α men
- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

February 11, 2024 Page 3 of 21



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

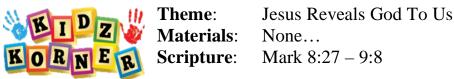
P: Let us pray... Holy God, you reveal yourself to us in the person of Jesus Christ, yet he, and you, remain a mystery. Invite us into that mystery, drawing us into relationship, calling us to know you better each day, and walking side by side with us through our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

* Please stand if able

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Hello boys and girls. I hope you all had a great week... You know how we all love superhero movies, right? The action, the drama, the special effects - it's all so cool. But what if I told you that there's a real-life superhero who's even more amazing than any character in a Marvel or DC movie? His name is **Jesus**.

In the Bible, there's this wild story where Jesus takes his buddies Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. Suddenly, Jesus starts glowing like a light bulb, his clothes become super white, and two famous guys from the past, Moses and Elijah, show up. It's like a superhero team-up!

Peter gets excited and wants to build monuments for all three of them. But then, a voice from heaven says, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him!" It's like God is saying, "Hey, Moses and Elijah are cool, but Jesus is the main character here."

You see, Moses and Elijah represent the old rules and prophecies. But Jesus is the new deal. He's the ultimate revelation of God. He's the one we should be listening to because when we see Jesus, we're really seeing God!

Think about it. Moses said that people who messed up big time should be stoned. But when Jesus met a woman who had messed up, He showed her mercy. Elijah called down fire on his enemies, but Jesus said we should love our enemies. Jesus' teachings go beyond the old rules, showing us what God is really like.

So, we don't live by "Biblical principles," but by the truth of Jesus. The Bible is like a map that leads us to Jesus, the real-life superhero. The Bible isn't perfect, but Jesus is. He's the perfect image of God.

So, the next time you're faced with a tough decision, don't just ask, "What would a good person do?" Instead, ask, "What would **Jesus** do?" Because He's the ultimate superhero, the one who shows us what God is really like.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for sending your only Son to show us what you are really like. Help us to listen to Jesus and to follow him. Amen.

* Please stand if able

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:27 – 9:8

R: Our scripture reading is from the Gospel of Mark, Chapters 8 and 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

* Please stand if able

• SERMON

Pr. Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from Jesus who is the Christ, who came to vanquish Sin, Death, and the Devil, Amen.

Do any of you watch the Transformer movies? I'll be honest, I stopped watching after about the first 3 or 4. (SLIDE) As I was thinking about what to say about the Transfiguration of Jesus I was reminded of the Transformer movie franchise. I was shocked to learn there has been no less than 7 full length features depicting everything from sports cars to Dump Trucks turning into alien robots. There's plans for at least 2 more in the works... It seems the world just can't get enough shape-shifting super robots. Don't believe it? (SLIDE) Consider this: The Transformer Movie Series is the 15th-highest-grossing film series, with a total of \$5.28 billion; two movies in the series have grossed over \$1 billion each. Despite being almost universally panned by movie critics, this is one of the most successful film franchises of all time. What's that mean? I'd say we're going to see a lot more talking robots in the future. That's what it means.

There are many theories as to why these movies, despite their poor critical reception, are such a hit with moviegoers. Some point to the nostalgia factor. Transformers was a popular series of toys in the late 1980s. (SLIDE) Those boys and girls who went crazy for Transformer toys are now moms and dads eager to show their sons and daughters how cool it can be when a rusty tractor morphs into

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

a talking, flying superhero. There's also the fact that they're just plain fun to watch. Amazing special effects, non-stop action and beautiful people diving for cover is good entertainment any way you slice it. I think what intrigues us most about Transformers is the transforming itself. There's magic and allure to the idea of something so basic and familiar as an automobile becoming something so powerful, so mysterious and so downright awesome. It makes us see the world around us, just for a second, as filled with new and exciting potential... (SLIDE) I mean, what if my car wasn't just a car? What if my desk wasn't just a desk? What if my toaster wasn't just a toaster? That would be an interesting world!

Seven times over the last fourteen summers, people all over the world have flocked to movie theaters, loaded down with popcorn, and ready to watch the same story all over again. You may think it a stretch, but a line can be drawn between the Transformers film franchise and the transfiguration of Jesus, as given to us in Mark's gospel. (SLIDE) Think about it. The tagline for the toys and films is, "More than meets the eye." Isn't that true for Jesus? The transfiguration is the moment where the disciples get a glimpse of who Jesus really is. This is the moment when they saw for certain Jesus was more than just a man. Jesus stood before his disciples, on the top of Mount Hermon, and before their eyes he changed. He changed from a rabbi with a keen connection to God, into a Godman, as I said last week, God with flesh on. The disciples saw Jesus as greater

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

than Moses and Elijah put together. This glimpse of who Jesus would become -of who Jesus really was -- left the disciples slack-jawed and stunned. Their world suddenly had new and exciting potential. "What if my rabbi isn't just a rabbi?!" See the connection? Oh, but there's more.

Many of us respond to the idea of another Transformers movie with a sigh. So also, many hear about Transfiguration Sunday and let out the same disinterested puff of air. "It makes sense for us to circle back to Christmas and Easter. I mean, those are the biggies. I'll bet nobody's having ham or turkey today to celebrate this great event in the life of Jesus Christ... Why do we circle back to this Transfiguration Sunday every year? After all, hasn't it become clear that Jesus is God? Haven't we already established the fact he's not just a man but divine? Seriously, we just saw this movie with this same plot last year. Why do we find ourselves here again?" (SLIDE)

Let's assume that, in the words of a well-intentioned and awestruck Peter and in the words of our Gathering Hymn, "... it is good for us to be here" (v. 5). Let's assume the reason we tread this same old familiar ground of Jesus' Transfiguration is not just because it's what's given to us for this Sunday in the Lectionary, but because it's actually good for us as his disciples to hear this amazing story yet again. Here's at least one good reason. We spend a great deal of energy as people trying to transform Jesus. We morph and manipulate him into

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

something he's not, something that fits our agenda and not God's Will. It's good for us to be confronted with the truth that Jesus is not who we've made him out to be. Not even close. He's so much greater than we've assumed. He's holier than we give him credit for and better than we've imagined. We need the transfiguration because it breaks our idolatrous and self-serving ideas of Jesus and brings us back to the jaw-dropping, breathtaking truth of who and what this Jesus really is. Several years ago there was a bestselling T-shirt that said, "Jesus is my homeboy." (SLIDE) Maybe you've turned Jesus into your own personal divine affirmer. Your 'transformed' Jesus never confronts you with the law in order to draw you back to the gospel, but is only there to say, "I got your back, buddy!" (SLIDE) Another way we transform Jesus is by making him into our own personal trump card. We pull him out when logical arguments fail. My personal favorite is using Jesus as some kind of slot machine in the sky. When we need healing for ourselves, a sick family member, or a beloved friend, we trot out The Healer Jesus and shoot up a couple of prayers to our Jesus Idol.

This is why we need the transfiguration. This is why we revisit this familiar territory, year after year. (SLIDE) We come back to this particular storyline because in the last year we've all built our own unique, but false picture of Jesus. We've laid our assumptions, our agendas and our designs upon Him. We've sat with him -- knowing there's more than meets the eye and tried to turn him into

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

something that suits our fancy. Transfiguration Sunday exists to remind us of who Jesus really is and who we need him to be.

When Jesus transforms from car to alien robot, er, I mean from an apparently mortal man to glorified God in flesh, we, like those first disciples, get a glimpse of the real glory of our God in the flesh. We've tried to morph Jesus into our likeness, but today we see Him in Glory.

Many people will leave the theater later this year raving about the special effects in Transformers 8. In the same way, we can leave our annual pilgrimage to Mount Hermon praising the awesomeness of Jesus and thanking God for using His almighty power to forgive our sins rather than squash us for our idolatry. As we leave here today to watch the world's most watched sporting event, may we say to ourselves, "Yeah, okay, the story wasn't anything new, but it still makes me say, 'Wow!'" Why do we need another Transformers movie? Some would argue that we don't. Seven is enough, but consider that there were eight Harry Potter films and 25 James Bond movies. Did you know there have been 10 Batman movies? So maybe an 8th Transformer film isn't all that bad. At the very least, every once in a while, we need a Transformers movie to remind us how great of an actor Mark Wahlberg is and how truly awful it would be to live in a world with talking cars. And every once in a while we need the transfiguration to remind us that, even though anthropomorphic alien robot cars do not exist, Jesus does. And he could

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

crush every single one of those alien anthropomorphic cars. Now that would make for a great movie.

Jesus isn't just a great teacher. He's greater than the great teacher Moses and the great prophet Elijah. They bow to him. Jesus isn't just an enlightened man. He's God in flesh and his glory shines brighter than clothes could ever be bleached. He's not your card to be played in arguments or a puppet at your beck and call; he's the Father's "beloved Son." We listen to him. He rules over us. Every once in a while we need him to bust out of whatever box we've placed him in. We need to see Jesus transform into his glorious self, and remind us that he is the one true God. May Jesus, God in the Flesh, transform you into his disciple and follower for the sake of this world. Amen.

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

^{*} Please stand if able

[•] Please be seated

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.

**Or*, He descended to the dead.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Trusting in the good news of Jesus Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: In the Transfiguration, you revealed to Peter, James, and John that Jesus was far more than they had thought. Help us to see past our own limited expectations to recognize the fullness of your divine power at play in the world. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Great are your mighty mountains, upon which many have experienced your presence. Help us to care for and protect the wild and majestic places of your creation that others might have 'mountaintop experiences' for generations to come. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Give all those in positions of authority the humility to know their own limitations, that they might work collaboratively with others for the good of all. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Enfold in your loving care all those who are struggling with health issues, loss, uncertainty, and every kind of stress, (*especially*...) May we be your arms reaching out in service and solace to all in need. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Call us into a life of sacrificial love, that we might step away from worldly comforts and concerns for the sake of your divine justice for all creation. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

^{*} Please stand if able

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with joy all those who took up their crosses and followed you, paving the way for us to do likewise. May we continue the journey they started until we see them face to face in your eternal kingdom. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Confident that in Christ Jesus you answer prayer, we lift to you all for whom pray, aloud and in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

• OFFERING

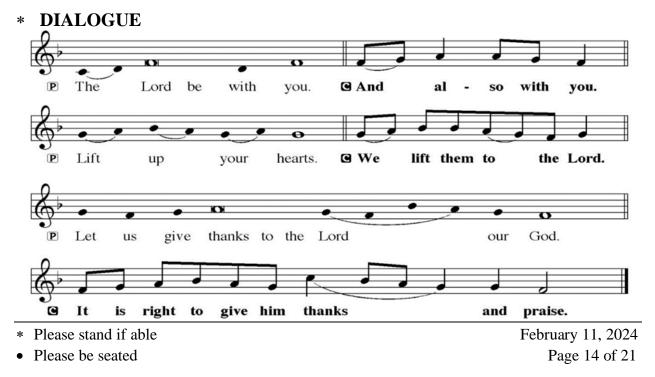
P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet may go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...Holy God, we offer with gratitude those things which you have gifted to us—our money, our time, and even our whole selves. Take and use them for such purposes as you will, that all might share in your abundance.

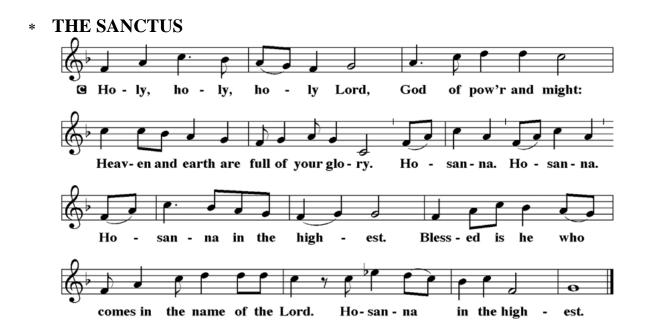
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



* 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, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.
- 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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that,

^{*} Please stand if able

refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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

- P: United into one through this heavenly food, 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus, our messiah and savior, God's beloved with whom God is well pleased, now invites you to this holy banquet where all can partake of his very real presence, and be strengthened for the journey ahead. Come, for all is prepared.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by 'Station'. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

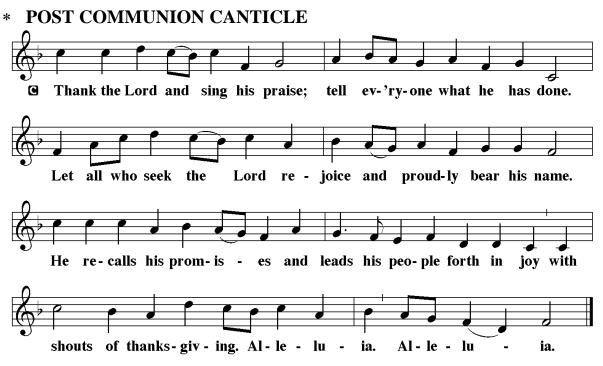
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unity us, + now and forever,

C: Amen.



* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able



* **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!

le
)

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 18th Mark 10:17-31

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Visit a Planetarium BODY: Review your medications with your provider. SPIRIT: Start each morning with a prayer.

* Please stand if able

This Week @ Trinity – February 11 thru February 18:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Feb. 11	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, Feb. 13	6:00 pm	Pancake Supper – Mardi Gras Celebration
Wed, Feb. 14	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thurs, Feb. 15	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon, Tolly's Gastropub
Fri, Feb. 16	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Feb. 18	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
	12:00 pm	Trinity Troops (5 th & 6 th Graders)

Save The Date!

Pancake Supper – Mardi Gras Celebration	Feb 13 @ 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship	Feb 14 @ 7:pm
Trinity Troops (5 th – 6 th Graders)	Feb 18 After Worship
First Communion	Easter Sunday-Mar 31
First Communion Classes (See Pr Mel to sign-up)	Mar 23 & 30 @ 10:00 am
Lent Midweek Soup Supper/Devotion	Feb 21, 28
	Mar 6, 13, 20 @ 6:30 pm
Palm/Passion Sunday	Mar 24 @ 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal	Mar 28 @ 6:00 pm
Good Friday	Mar 29 @ 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday Worship, Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt	Mar 31 @ 8:00 am &
	10:30 am



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.

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

* Please stand if ab	le
----------------------	----

all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

Trinity Contact Info



* Please stand if able