

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



“The
Son of Man
came
not to
be served but
to serve,
and to
give his life
as a ransom
for many.”

MARK 10:45, ESV

Mark 10:32-52
February 25, 2024



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

GATHERING

- **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 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW 608**



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

* **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, in your blessed reign, the first are last and the last first. Remind us as often as it takes that we ought to seek greatness not through our own efforts, but as an extension of your healing arms reaching out in service to our neighbors. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Who's The Greatest

Materials: A Trophy

Scripture: Mark 10:32-52

Good morning boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. Today I have this trophy to show you. Have any of you ever won a trophy? How do you get a trophy? For being the best at something. Usually, for a sporting event like the Super Bowl they give out a really big trophy. Some trophies we get to keep and others you have to return after your time is up. Most trophies have some sort of a plaque or inscription saying what the trophy was for. Some of the time they might be for a sporting event, but other kinds of events can give out trophies too. Sometimes beauty pageants like Miss America give out a trophy to the winner. Maybe someone competes in an art or a dance contest. They sometimes give out trophies to the winners.

Do they give out trophies to the losers? Not usually. Normally, trophies go out to the best and the greatest. Do you know who might be the greatest Christians? In the Bible there's a story where two of the disciples ask Jesus to make them the greatest. They want to sit next to Jesus when He gets to be King Jesus. They didn't really understand what being a Christian or a follower of Jesus was all about. So, Jesus had to explain to them that to be first in God's Kingdom, then had to become servants just like Jesus was a servant.

Can you think of some ways you can be a servant? Sharing your toys. Cleaning your room. Helping a friend. Helping your parents. Those are all really good ways to serve others. Jesus tells us when we serve others, it's like we're serving Him and that makes us all great in His eyes. I want to serve Jesus, how about you?

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us what it means to be great in Heaven. Give us a heart that is thankful and willing to serve you and our neighbors. Amen.

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:32-52

R: Our scripture reading is from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³² They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; ³⁴ they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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 one who opens our eyes to the love of God, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

Back when I was in the Air Force, just by virtue of my rank and the position I held in our squadron I was one of only 8 or 9 officers among over 300 enlisted members. I was pretty ambitious back then. I did my job well and when opportunities came, I was usually the first to volunteer. When an issue arose that needed to be solved, we would brainstorm ideas. I usually had the farthest out ideas. At the time our Commander appreciated my outside the box ideas. He always said he would rather have an officer he had to reign in every once in a while than one you had to jump start. I always knew there was a line between blind ambition and doing a good job and trying to get ahead. I think that's why Jesus doesn't rebuke James and John (**SLIDE**) when they made their outlandish request to be at Jesus' right and left hands when he came into his kingdom. They were ambitious, and Jesus knew he would have to reign them in, but at least they had high goals and knew what they wanted.

Their requests for the seats next to Jesus suggest these two disciples are vying for the two top positions of power. Perhaps they also had another ulterior motive. Maybe they actually did love Jesus and wanted nothing more than to be near him even if it meant being baptized into a death like his. A person willing to

undergo suffering and even death to be a follower of Jesus is more than an admirer. They are more than fans. I mean I love the Browns, (SLIDE) but I'm not giving up my life to follow them into another losing season. I'm not even going to give up very much money either... I'll watch them on TV and maybe try to go and see a game, but if it involves hardship or peril, I'm out. Not James and John. They said they were able to drink from the same cup of suffering that Jesus was facing. By the way, (SLIDE) James was martyred in Jerusalem by Nero and John survived him only to be exiled to Patmos, where he had the Revelation that became the last Book of the Bible. So, indeed they both walked the walk of faith all the way to their own ends.

This particular passage is the final ministry of Jesus before entering into Jerusalem in Mark's Gospel. Jesus and his disciples have been on the road for quite a while. (SLIDE) As our scripture text for today begins, Jesus reveals for the third time how he will be handed over, mocked, beaten, and killed in Jerusalem, but that he will rise again on the third day. Mark tells us those who followed Jesus were amazed and afraid. Perhaps Jesus was walking ahead of them for that very reason. He was trying to put a little distance between them so they wouldn't try to talk him out of what God had planned. Peter had already tried to do just that after the first of Jesus' passion predictions. Jesus tries one last time before entering Jerusalem to get his disciples to finally understand what following

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Him really means. Instead of even trying to understand, James and John blurt out whatever is on their tongues without any filter, “Jesus make us your favorites.” They say... That of course set off a chain reaction of anger between all the rest of the disciples. Imagine Jesus in a fair amount of distress over what he knows is about to happen and all these earthly minded skulls full of mush can muster is yet another argument over who’s going to be greatest. What follows is Jesus trying to get them to understand about becoming a servant in the Kingdom of God. He explains that leaders in God’s Realm don’t lord it over all the rest, but serve those in need. If you want to know what Jesus means, all you have to do is look at what he does. Jesus modeled everything he taught. If he says feed my sheep, he actually feeds the multitudes. If he says take care of the sick, he heals even on the Sabbath. Jesus shows us by his own actions how to live under the rule of God’s Kingdom. The trouble is the disciples are too blind to see what Jesus is trying to teach them.

One reason Mark’s Gospel is my favorite is because it’s been called the most Lutheran Book in the Bible. (SLIDE) When you think about the way Mark depicts the disciples, they start out clueless and seem to never get any better, only worse and worse. In the other Gospels the disciples start out really bad, but tend to at least begin to understand some of what Jesus teaches. Not so in Mark. Here’s what I mean. In the story where Jesus falls asleep in the boat during a bad storm

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and the disciples wake him up very afraid that they were all going to die. In Mark's Gospel Jesus stills the storm and then says to the disciples, "Have you still *no faith*?" In Matthew, Jesus says "You of *little faith*." In Luke, Jesus says, "*Where is your faith*?" At least in Matthew they have a little faith and in Luke they must have some faith if Jesus asks where it is. They have no faith in Mark's version and they never get any either. Even after the resurrection when the men in white instruct the women to go and tell the other disciples Jesus has risen, Mark tells us they left and said nothing to anybody because they were afraid. In Mark's Gospel the disciples are never redeemed by their own behavior. For Mark, the only thing the disciples have going for them is the fact that Jesus picked them and Jesus loved them. Maybe they did have some redeeming values, but Mark doesn't record them. I believe it's much the same with us. If Jesus were beside me telling me how he was about to die, I'd probably not be too much different. So, before we ever get too critical on those who first walked the walk of faith, lets be honest about our own discipleship walk with Jesus. We really don't have much going for us either, except for the fact that Jesus loves us and Jesus picks us.

To further his point about the disciples not understanding what following Jesus was all about, Mark uses a literary device called an inclusio. An inclusio is where an author brackets a narrative story with two very similar stories that illustrate the major idea within the brackets. In this case, Mark brackets all three of

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the times when Jesus predicts his passion, death, and resurrection to his disciples, with stories of blind people who are healed by Jesus and who then can actually, physically see. In doing this, Mark highlights the spiritual blindness of the disciples while the two men gain their real, physical eyesight.

I started out by suggesting a little ambition might not be a bad thing, but I will tell you that too much or blind ambition is bad. If the desire to be numero uno drives you to cheat or to steal from someone else, then you've gone too far. Ambition can easily sneak over the line into greed and self-destruction. I'm pretty sure you can't be too ambitious when it comes to serving others. I don't play tennis, but back in the day I played a bit of Racquetball and I think the saying applies to both. Life is like a game of Tennis (Racquetball). Those who don't serve well end up losing... (SLIDE)

We do a fair bit of serving around this place. Some of you are serving in some capacity almost every day around here. Most of you serve without ever seeking, needing, or even wanting any credit--let alone to be the first or best. Most of your serving goes unrecognized. I mean unrecognized in the sense that you never get an award or even a public thank you. Here's just a small sample of the stuff I'm talking about. Someone cleans the kitchen floor on her hands and knees and doesn't want others to know. Someone comes in early and makes sure all the lights are on and the doors unlocked before anyone else gets here. Someone stays

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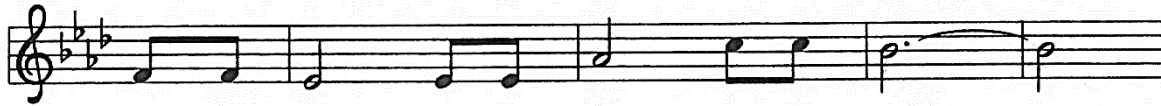
late to make sure all those lights are off and all those doors are locked. Someone fills the candles with oil to make sure we have a beautifully lit Sanctuary. Someone trims all the shrubbery around the building. Someone bakes our communion bread and another someone makes sure we have plenty of wine. The list goes on and on. One day I want to have a Sunday where we recognize all those who we used to call back in my Air Force days the “Unsung Heroes.” Serving is a way of life around here and my strong belief is that it is not done to receive glory or notoriety.

Poor James and John. (SLIDE) They get a bad rap for wanting to be at the right- and left-hand side of Jesus. We always assume it’s for all the wrong reasons. What if the reason they wanted to be at the right and left of Jesus was simply because they loved him so much. I wish I loved Jesus that much. I hope I can learn to love Jesus that much. May we learn from Jesus to love well and to serve well. Amen.

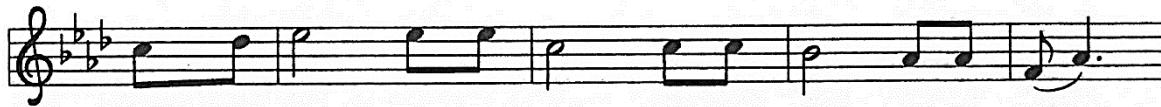
Silence may be kept for meditation...



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

* 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

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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.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, you came in the person of Jesus not to be served, but to serve others. Help us set aside our desire for greatness that we might love our neighbors as ourselves. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Give us a deep appreciation for forests and grasslands, deserts and mountain ranges, oceans and rivers, that we would care for them as you would have us. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Encourage those who lead and those who follow to work cooperatively with one another toward common goals, that all might have life and have it abundantly. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Enfold in your loving arms all who are living with chronic or terminal illness, addiction, mental health challenges, or grief, (*especially...*) Show us how best to love and support those in our families or communities who suffer. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Help us to see the many ways in which scripture has been used to marginalize those living with disabilities, that we might be intentional about welcoming and affirming every single child of God as they are. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we remember those who shared with us stories of lives transformed by your love, teaching us by their example that your love can change us in powerful ways. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

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L: Confident that you walk alongside us in our need, we lift to you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, 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 ... Generous God, you demonstrate your greatness by providing us with everything we need. In humility and gratitude we return to you a portion of these gifts. Accept them, we pray, for use in service to others according to your will.

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.

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.



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

* **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	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser



Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 3rd
Mark 12:1-17

Health Tips for the Week
MIND: Spend time in silence.
BODY: Get a massage.
SPIRIT: Start a Bible study.

Please pick up your March Trinity Trumpet from the table outside the office.

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This Week @ Trinity – February 25 thru March 3:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Feb. 25	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, Feb. 27	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, Feb. 28	6:30 pm	Lenton Soup Supper/Devotion
Fri, March 1	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, March 3	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

Save The Date!

Lent Midweek Soup Supper/Devotion	Feb 24, 28 Mar 5, 12, 19 @ 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 all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

- * Please stand if able
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Trinity Contact Info

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



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