

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

November 27, 2024

I Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Thanksgiving Eve

- **Prelude**

by Roxanne Groff

- **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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C: we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✝ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

* **ENTRANCE HYMN “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” LBW 543**



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertes Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

* **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.

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- = Please be seated

* **KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

• SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 for whom we are truly thankful, Jesus Christ, Our Savior, amen.

So, I ask you this every Thanksgiving Eve, “What are you thankful for today?” (**SLIDE**) It’s a question we ought to ask every day, not once a year. A related question I ask my Confirmation students at the beginning of every Catechism class is, “What was one high point or moment of your week?” You’d be surprised how hard that question is for them to answer. When they get really stuck, I give them a few hints (**SLIDE**) like, “Did you have clean air to breath this

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week?” or “Did you have enough clean water to drink?” or “Enough food to eat?” “Did you have a roof over your head to protect you from the weather?” I can come up with a hundred questions that lead to the answer I’m looking for. God always provides for what we need. It’s odd that most of the time we can easily come up with several things that were downers for the week, but it’s the blessings we struggle to name. I’m pretty certain it’s not just our youth who struggle with naming things to be thankful for. We live in a time and place with such abundance, we take most of God’s good gifts for granted. That’s why tomorrow is so important. Thanksgiving is one day set aside to pause and consider all the ways God blesses us.

When I consider my own life, I begin to realize that the more stuff I accumulate the less I’m grateful. In mathematics, I think they call it inversely proportional. (SLIDE) The more you have of one thing the less you have of another. If you doubt me, look at people from extremely impoverished nations. They live in huts with dirt floors and sleep on hay or a thin mat if they’re lucky. Yet, when visitors come to their villages, they insist on making their best meals and feeding their guests. They are much happier than those of us who have everything we need or want at our fingertips. That’s why Jesus said it’s harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to pass through the eye

of a needle. (SLIDE) We tend to love the creation and forget about the creator. It comes down to idol worship.

God knows all about our propensity to love the created stuff more than the one who created us. God sent numerous prophets to call us back to loving the Lord our God, but the best we can do is fake it for an hour or so on a Sunday morning. As much as our disregard for all God has done for us grieves God, we are still loved and cherished. God loved us so much He became flesh and blood so we could place our faith in something, someone who was real and who loved us back in the most visible way. Jesus Christ is the answer to our ingratitude and unfaithfulness. (SLIDE) Jesus fulfilled all the Law because we could not. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Not because of anything we did or could do, but because of what Jesus did and who our God is. We are forgiven, not because of our faith, but because of the faithfulness of Jesus.

You might be thinking, but Pastor the Bible says we're saved by grace, through faith. Doesn't that mean we at least have to somehow muster up at least a mustard seed of faith? (SLIDE) No! It's the faith of Jesus Christ that makes you and me righteous. I don't know about you, but I know I can't muster up even a mustard seed of faith on my own. It's all a gift from God...

So, forgiven people of God, the real question for us as we journey on this pilgrimage of life is, “Now that we’re forgiven, what are we supposed to do and how are we supposed to be?” That brings me to our scripture reading for this evening. Saint Paul was writing to his protégée, the youthful Pastor Timothy. In this letter Paul urges Timothy, “first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority.” Wait, what! Isn’t that counter-intuitive? Paul wants us to pray for and give thanks for all those in authority! But what if the one in authority isn’t the one we hoped for or voted for? I don’t see any exceptions, just an urging... Let’s remember that when the Hebrew people were in exile in Babylon, God used Cyrus the Pagan King (SLIDE) to release them and he even paid for the rebuilding of the Temple and the protection wall that surrounded Jerusalem. God isn’t limited to only using Christians or Jews to do God’s bidding. God uses everyone and everything to bless us.

So, I’ll ask once again, (SLIDE) “What are you thankful for this year?” May we never forget that thankful people are by far the second happiest people in the world... Who are the number one happiest people? I’m glad you asked. In every survey and psychological study, the happiest people, by far, are generous people. They know the real joy of sharing and giving away the blessings God has shared with them. May you never be at a loss to name something to be grateful

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for. May God's blessings help you know the depth of God's love for you. May you be the exception to the rule of inverse proportionality and be even more thankful for all the good things God has already given to you. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow.

*** APOSTLE'S 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: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: We praise you, O Lord, for you alone are God. Give to your church a holy curiosity to ask questions and build bridges across difference. Sustain ecumenical and interreligious partnerships (*local partnerships may be named*). On this day of Thanksgiving, commit us to respectful and faithful dialogue with Indigenous neighbors who find this day difficult. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We praise you for green pastures and abundant harvests. Feed us with the fruit of the earth, the work of human hands. Bless those who labor in fields and factories for the food that nourishes and strengthens us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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L: We praise you for leaders who seek justice and equity for all. For our president, Joe Biden, our governor, Mike DeWine, and for all local leaders and all elected officials, we pray. Guide them to prioritize the common good over narrow individualism. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We praise you for your tender care. Be present with those who weep this day (*especially*). Lead them through their sorrow and tears into shouts of joy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We praise you for our community here at Trinity. You have brought us this far by faith. In times of worry and uncertainty, renew our trust in your abundance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We praise you for your saints who now feast at your eternal banquet. Sustain us by their faithful lives of gratitude until that day when we join them at your table. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Sharing of Christ's Peace which was started as the people entered the Sanctuary is now shared between the congregation and the Pastor.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

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 where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord.

C: Amen.

* = Please stand if able


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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



P The Lord be with you. **C** And also 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, through Christ our Lord. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* THE SANCTUS



C 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.

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*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

P: Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ. 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: 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: Behold, God is making all things new. In this meal, you take your place in God's new creation.

• 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.*

* = Please stand if able

● = Please be seated

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us. ✝ Now and forever...

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



☞ 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... Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, ✝ be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

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* **SENDING SONG** **“Now Thank We All Our God”** **LBW 534**



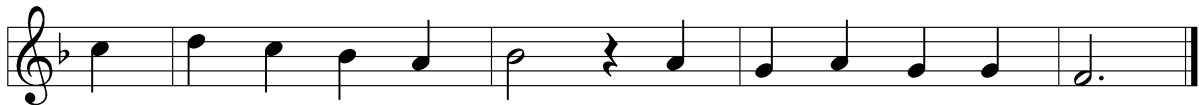
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Until we gather again 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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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Lector	
Acolyte	
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Flowers	

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Take the stairs instead of the elevator
MIND: Don't worry about things you can't control
SPIRIT: Value all living things



Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 1st
 Daniel 6:6-27

This Week @ Trinity – November 24 thru December 1, 2024:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fri, Nov. 29	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, Nov. 30	10:00 am	Decorating Church for Christmas
Sun, Dec. 1	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

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Save The Date!

November 27 @ 7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service at Trinity
December 4, 11, & 18 @ 6:30 pm	Advent Soup Supper & Video Discussion
December 7 @ 10:00 am	Children's Christmas Program Practice
December 8 @ 10:30 am	Children's Christmas Program
December 13 & 14 @ 10 am-8 pm	Darke County Christmas Fund Drive
December 18 @ 9:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
December 24 @ 4 \$ 10 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Services
December 29 @ 10:30 am	Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday



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.

Trinity Contact Info

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