Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Mark 10:17-31 February 18, 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

* 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: God of love,

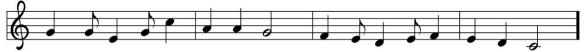
- C: When we look inward and are honest with ourselves, we see where we have lived as though you are not our God. We have sought after our own gain rather than the good of all. We have not loved you or our neighbors as ourselves. We have betrayed and denied you in what we have done and not done. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we might become what you have called us to be.
- P: God whose unfathomable love went to the cross for our sake now forgives us all our sins and welcomes us all over again into the promise of eternal life in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN "Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ" ELW 674



- 1 Let us tal ents and tongues em ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a ble to make us one, at the ta ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard. teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



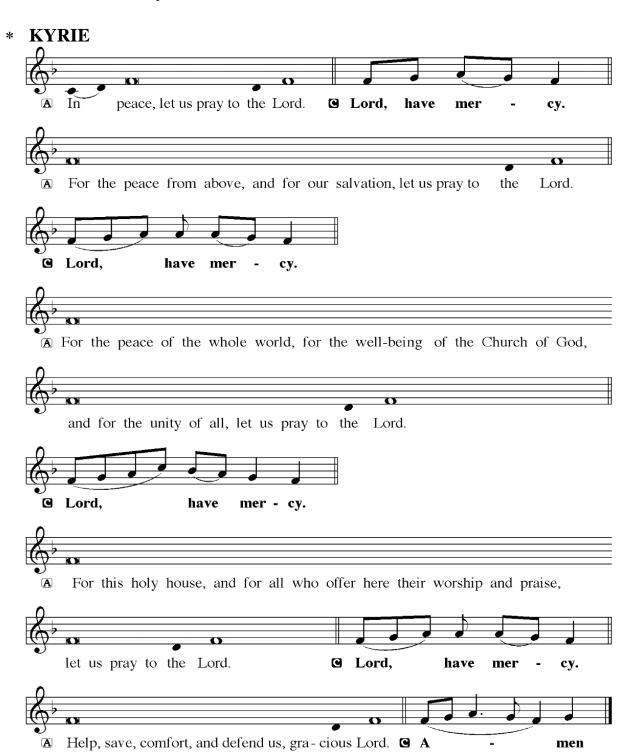
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

* Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

* 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.



* Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

* HYMN OF PRAISE



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



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



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



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

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Holy God, You speak to us and guide our ways through your word. Inspire us by the Holy Spirit to dig deep and be transformed by the love, grace, power, and wisdom we find in your scriptures, that we might, as changed people, carry forth your vision of peace and justice into our community and the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able February 18, 2024

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

KORNER

Theme: Trust Jesus not Possessions

Materials: Needles and thread for each Child

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

Good morning girls and boys. I hope you all had a great week. I want to do some sewing this morning and I need your help threading my needle. Who can help me. Mrs. Musser can you help us this morning? Thank you... Oh, wait a minute I forgot. I need you to thread the needle with this camel from our nativity scene. Can you do that for me? Thanks...

It's not easy to get that small camel through the eye of that needle is it? Did you know Jesus said it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who loves their stuff to get into heaven. Jesus said that to help a rich young man realize he should love Jesus more than his material possessions. You know that made him feel sad. He couldn't let go of all his stuff. It's hard to give up everything we have to follow Jesus. What would you give to be a follower of Jesus? All of you have already given up a lot. You're here right now when you could be anywhere, you chose to be here with Jesus and other followers.

Do you know that if you don't think you could give us everything for Jesus, you're not alone. We all fall into that sin. Jesus made it seem so bleak his disciples asked him who then can be saved. They didn't think anyone could make it to heaven. That's when Jesus reminded them of something we all forget from time to time. That important thing we should always remember is that with God nothing is impossible. In fact, God has already forgiven you all your sins and has made you his very own child. That's how special you are to God!

What Jesus wants us to remember for today is that on our own effort by trying to be good all the time, we will fail and never get to be with God, but the good news is that God has already made you his child and nothing you do or forget to do can ever change that fact.

Let's pray... Dear precious Lord Jesus, thank you for reminding us that with you all things are possible. Help us to rely on your love when we need a mighty fortress to protect us from sin, death, and the devil. Amen.

* Please stand if able February 18, 2024

Please be seated

Page 5 of 20

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:17-31

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother." ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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 makes

all things possible, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

I like the amazing stunts in movies like Mission Impossible and Fast and

Furious. I mean who doesn't like watching a guy fighting the bad gut on top of a

* Please stand if able February 18, 2024

• Please be seated Page 6 of 20

speeding train? (SLIDE) Those scenes where the good guy jumps from his speeding sports car onto the back of an also speeding semi-trailer and then fights the semi driver for control of the vehicle always have me on the edge of my seat. Those stunt doubles make it seem like they're doing the impossible. I'm sure you've also heard the warning: "Don't try this at home!" Even so, there are always a handful of daredevils who think they can safely copy what they see the professional stuntman do. What usually follows is a clip worth sending into Funniest Home Videos. When I watch those clips sometimes I actually feel pain in the areas where the person in the video gets hurt. I think we call that empathy...

In our Gospel lesson today, we meet a young man who thought he could do the impossible. He thought he could earn his way into heaven. (SLIDE) "Don't try that at home, or anywhere else," says the Holy Spirit to us this morning.

Overestimate your goodness, or underestimate your God and you could be in for an eternal world of hurt. The thing about stunts like jumping off a building or hopping between moving cars is that the professionals make it look so easy. When the young man in our text considered God's commands he thought they were easy too. So, he approached Jesus looking for approval like a pat on the back. (SLIDE) In spite of his false presumption, there is something likeable about this young man. He isn't coming to Jesus with a trick question, trying to force Jesus into the dilemma of making a false statement about God like so many of the religious

^{*} Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

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leaders had done. Instead, he runs to Jesus and falls on his knees before him out of respect. Still, there's something about this young man we don't want to copy – namely the way he overestimated his own goodness. When Jesus told him he should keep the Commandments, the young man replied with a straight face: "All these I have kept since I was a boy!" Have you ever made a claim like that? Many people do. When I've thought about my turn to knock on the Pearly Gates of Heaven and God asks me why I should be allowed in, the answer I often tell myself is that I've tried to be a good person. I haven't literally killed anyone. I've tried my best to be honest in everything. I've tried to be a good father and a good husband... These responses are really no different than the one the young man gave Jesus. I don't think I'm too different than anyone else in this. We all tend to overestimate our goodness because we underestimate the precision with which God wants *all* of his commands obeyed. We forget that being good in God's eyes means always responding to hurtful comments with loving words. It means speaking well of your neighbor even when his dog yaps all day long. It means respecting your parents even when they don't let you hang out with your friends. It means protecting your neighbor's investment of a new lawn by weeding out all the dandelions in your yard. It even means praying for those who shoot other people at parades or in churches, schools, or any other public place. There is no

^{*} Please stand if able

way we obey God with such precision, and neither had the young man in our text.

All have sinned, says the Bible.

So, what was Jesus to do with this young man? You'd think he'd let out an exasperated sigh, roll his eyes, and rip the kid to shreds. That would have been easy for Jesus to do. After all he is God. He knew everything about that young man. He knew about the dirty thoughts the young man had entertained earlier that day about the girl who lived down the street. He knew how the young man was refusing to forgive his father for having beaten him, and how he had scoffed at the seeming silliness of his Church elders. Jesus really could have put the man in his place. Instead, Mark records these astonishing words: "Jesus looked at him and loved him." Wow! Far from being irritated, the way I usually react when someone is slow to catch on to simple directions, Jesus consciously loved the man. How did he show that love? He was honest and authentic with him. Jesus said: "One thing you lack. Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Wait. What? Pastor, how was that a demonstration of Jesus' love, you might be thinking to yourself... Like the doctor who orders multiple tests to convince a skeptical patient of his illness, Jesus used this command to bring to light the fact that the young man wasn't as good as he thought he was. It was like Jesus used the Law as a mirror to point out what the man was lacking. The man's

^{*} Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

face fell at Jesus' words. You see, the young man loved his "stuff." It was too much to ask of him to give it up to follow Jesus. He admired Jesus but clearly he didn't love or adore him.

Many of us have come to church this morning because we admire Jesus. Maybe you love his simple yet thought-provoking parables. You like how he stood with those whom others wouldn't touch with a 391/2-foot pole. You even know he loves you because he willingly gave up his life on the cross for you. For all these and many more reasons you admire this really great man. In case you didn't know this already, Jesus wants more than your admiration; he wants your adoration. Will you give up everything to follow him, or are you too attached to your worldly possessions? Jesus probably doesn't want you to sell all your belongings and enter a monastery or convent, but he does want you to use all your gifts to praise him. For example, he wants every movie you rent to glorify him, not mock his good creation. He wants every meal you eat to be received with thanksgiving, not groans. He wants every note you practice on the piano, or violin, or saxophone, or whatever instrument you play to be done with cheerful eagerness, not grumpy sluggishness. He wants every dollar given with joy as a sacrifice to show your love of God. If we have really been touched by Jesus' love, these won't seem like excessive demands, but exciting opportunities. We serve the King of the universe not because we have to, but because we get to.

^{*} Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

Unfortunately, that was all too much for the young man and he slumped away from Jesus much like how you may be slumping in your pew right now after hearing what Jesus expects of you. It's actually good for you to feel that way. As Martin Luther once said: "Before God can make us glad he needs to make us sad." While we shouldn't overestimate our goodness neither should we underestimate the power of our God. That's what the disciples were doing. When Jesus watched the young man go, he said: "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God". You might be able to squeeze a whisker or two through, but getting hooves, hump, and rump through the tiny opening, now that's impossible. It's just as impossible for someone to squeeze into heaven while entertaining covetous thoughts because they are not happy with what God has already given to them. It's no wonder the disciples responded: "Who then can be saved?" The disciples may not have owned as much "stuff" as that rich young man, but they knew they wished they were as rich as him... Jesus' words apply to you too. A camel has a better chance of fitting through the eye of a needle than any of us has of getting into heaven!

Earning our own salvation is impossible. We all know that. I mean if each sin was a raindrop, I'd be soaked right now just from the sins I committed since getting up this morning. Like water bursting through a dam, I can't stop the deluge

^{*} Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

of greedy, dirty, boastful, sarcastic, selfish thoughts that saturate my brain from morning until night. Even so, there is hope for me. Jesus said *all things*, even the salvation of an incessant sinner like me, are possible with God. It's more than possible, it's guaranteed. Jesus made the impossible a certain guarantee when he gave his life on the cross to pay for all the sins I've committed or will ever commit. He's done the same for you even if you mistakenly think that your sins are worse or not as bad as mine. It's not about our sin; it's about our Savior. Even right now Jesus is looking at you as he looked at that young man in our text and he loves you. He says, "I have forgiven you. My forgiveness and my blood covers you like a blanket."

Parachuting from a skyscraper. Running on the roof of a speeding train.

(SLIDE) Please don't try these at home. Leave the crazy stunts to the professionals. The same goes for trying to squeeze a camel through the eye of a needle. It's impossible to do, just like convincing God you're good enough to get into his heaven. It's comforting to know what's impossible for you and me is not even the least bit difficult for God. (SLIDE) He accomplished our salvation through Jesus. May you adore Jesus above all else and follow him! Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

* 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.

* 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: Merciful God, we cannot by our own power choose to follow you as you would like. Keep us from becoming discouraged, and remind us that with you all things are possible. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Fill us with awe at the astonishing beauty of your creation, entrusted to us from the beginning, and give us a passion for its stewardship according to your will. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Inspire all who lead at every level to work tirelessly for the health and flourishing of all your beloved children, near and far. God of the journey,

* Please stand if able February 18, 2024

• Please be seated Page 13 of 20

^{*}*Or*, He descended to the dead.

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Guide doctors and caregivers in their service to those who struggle physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and send your healing power to all in need, (*especially...*) God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Help us to recognize our wealth and the ways it gets in the way of our following you, and give us greater trust in you to provide for our true needs. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give thanks for all the saints in our lives and throughout history who followed your commandments and gave sacrificially for the good of the church, the community, and the world. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

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 ...God, you call us to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel, and we are well aware that all we have is actually from you. Accept these gifts as a sign of our faithfulness to your call, and use them for the good of all that you have made.

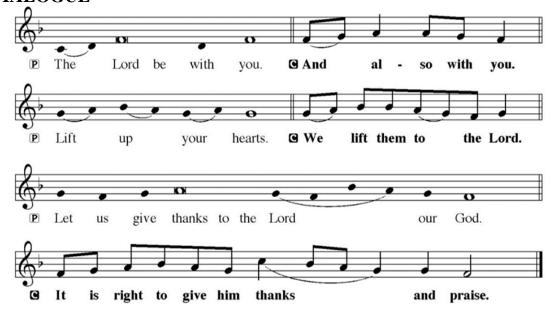
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* Please stand if able February 18, 2024

Page 14 of 20

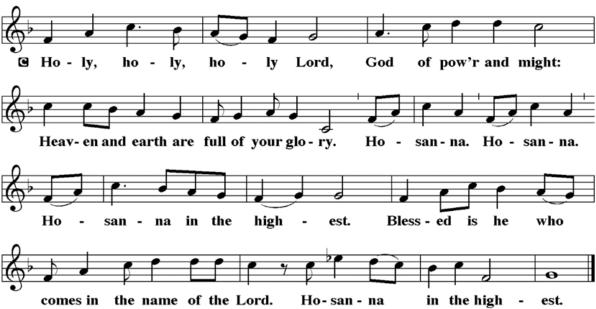
DIALOGUE



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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Please stand if able

February 18, 2024 · Please be seated Page 15 of 20

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the dessert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.
- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks: broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of 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: 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: You are invited now to the feast in which Jesus meets us and strengthens us for the work of the gospel. Come and be fed, for all is prepared.

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.

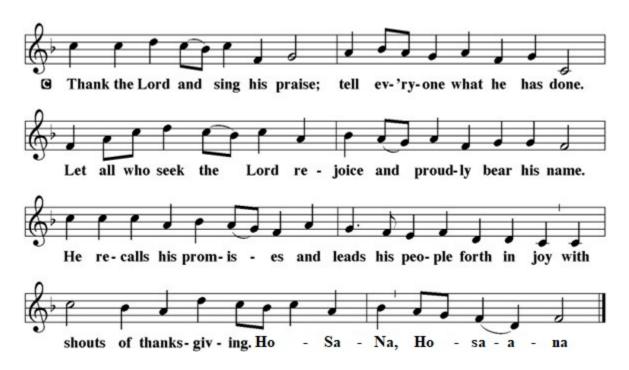
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February 18, 2024

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



* 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

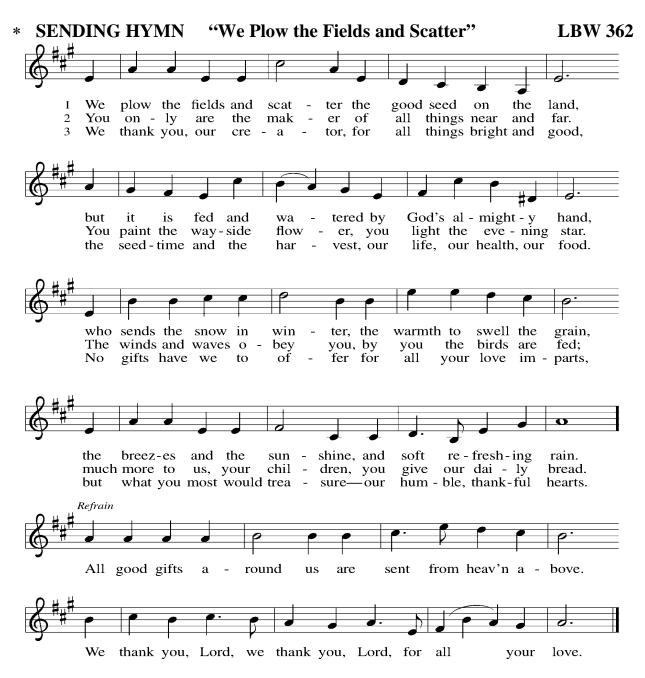
* SENDING BLESSING

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

February 18, 2024



* 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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February 18, 2024

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	PJ Musser
Acolyte	Noah Harleman
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 25th Mark 10:32-52

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Play a board game.

BODY: Try meal prepping for a month.

SPIRIT: Have a conversation with someone at church.

This Week @ Trinity - February 11 thru February 18:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Feb. 18	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Trinity Troops
Tues, Feb. 20	March Newsletter Deadline	
Wed, Feb. 21	6:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper/Devotion
	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Fri, Feb. 23	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Feb. 25	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

* Please stand if able

February 18, 2024

Save The Date!

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 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:	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



* Please stand if able February 18, 2024