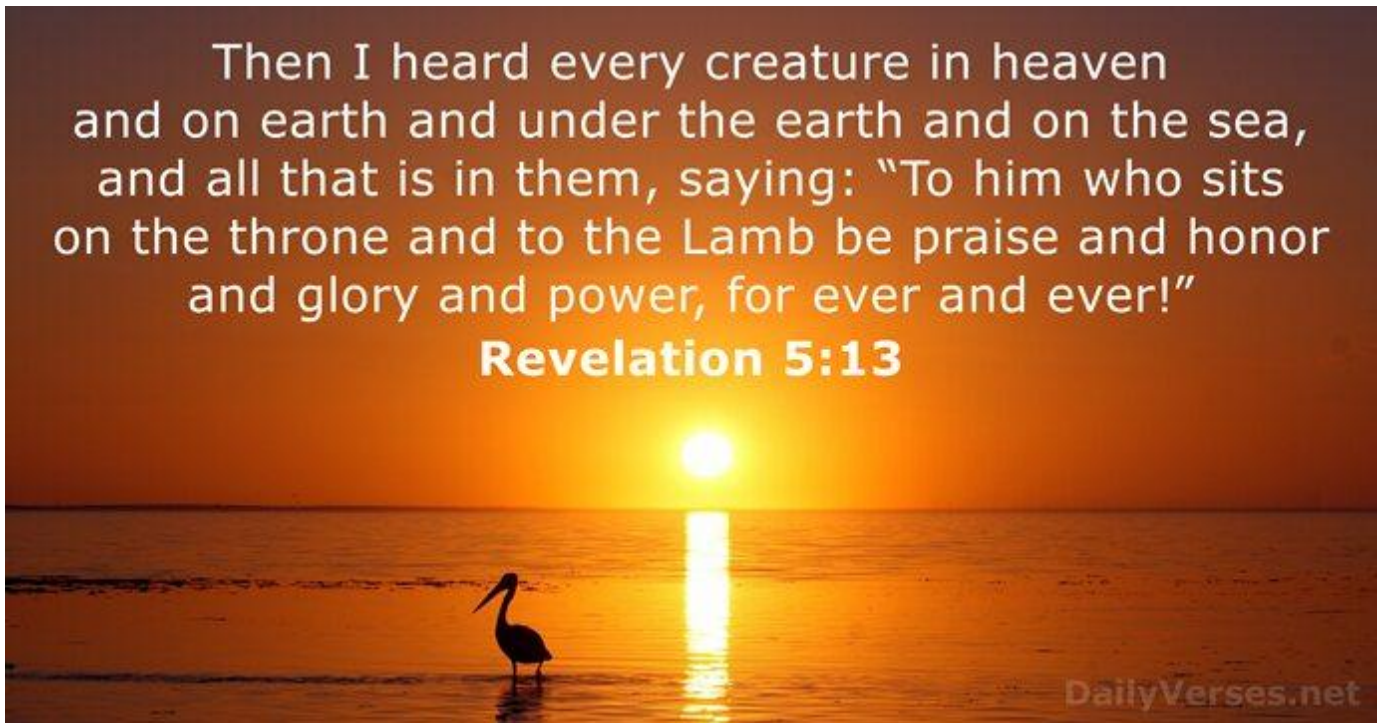


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Then I heard every creature in heaven
and on earth and under the earth and on the sea,
and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits
on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor
and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5:13



Revelation 5:1-13
August 10, 2025



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **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.

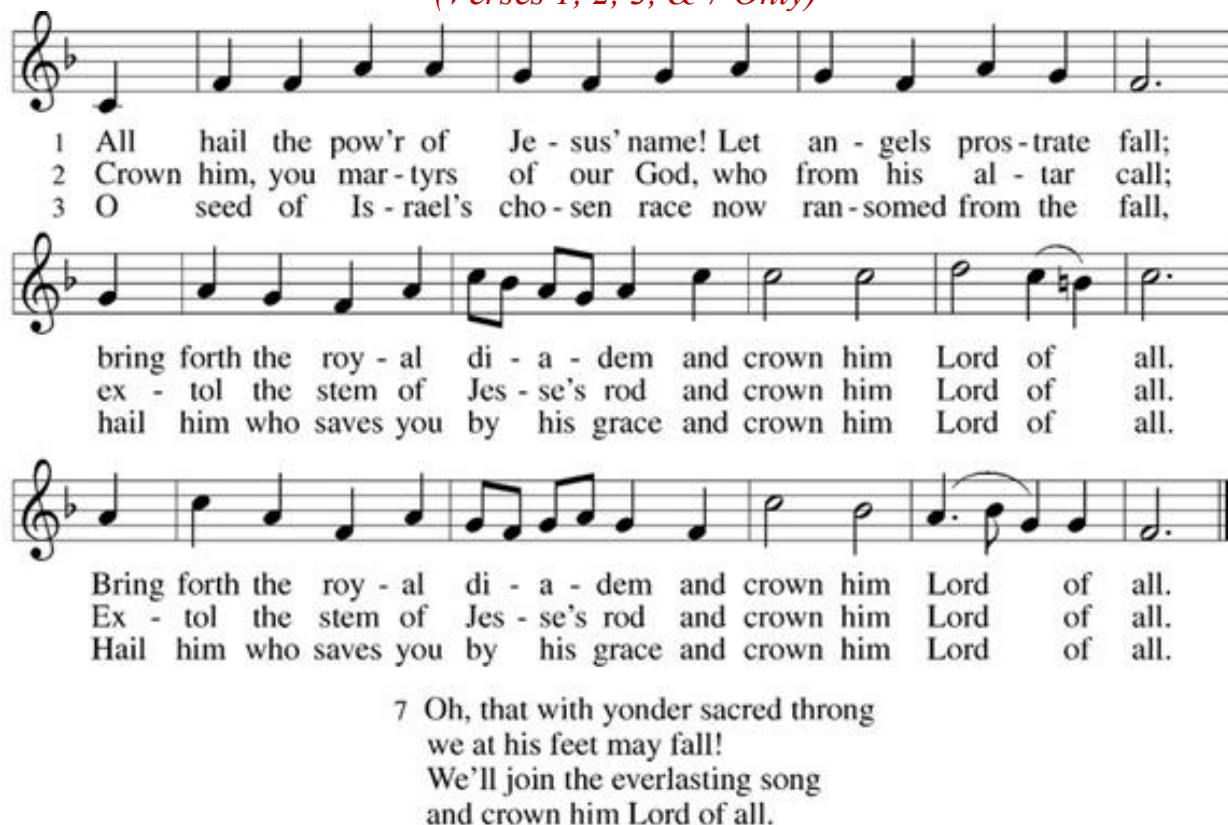
Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” LBW 328**

(Verses 1, 2, 3, & 7 Only)



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, you mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar call;
 3 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 we at his feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all.

* **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... God who is One, relieve us of our relentless need to be right about all things, including you. Open our minds and our hearts to the reality that you are present in all things and in all peoples from the beginning of time to the end. Open our eyes to our neighbors, that we might be loving and accepting of different ways of encountering you. Unite all people in your divine will, of which love and justice are the fruits. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: “Who Can Open It?”

Materials: A sealed box or envelope (something clearly closed and taped shut) with a bright ribbon around it.

Scripture: Revelation 5:1-13

[Hold up the sealed box] "Hey kids — I've got something here that is *really* important. I can't tell you what's inside... but it's good. You'd want to see it. Problem is... I can't open it. See? It's sealed up tight.

Who do you think could open it? [Let them guess — maybe mom, dad, a strong person.] Good ideas... but here's the thing — it's not about being the *strongest or the smartest, or even the richest*. It's about being the *right* person — the *worthy* person.

In the Bible, in the Book of Revelation, John saw something like this. It was a scroll — God's big plan for the whole world — but it was sealed. Nobody could open it. Not angels, not kings, not even superheroes, not even the Incredible Hulk. John started to cry because it looked like God's plan would never happen.

But then... someone *could* open it. Do you know who it was? Not a giant, not a soldier... but Jesus — BUT not even Jesus roaring like a lion, but Jesus looking like a Lamb who had given his life for the world.

The Bible says Jesus is worthy because he loves us so much that he gave himself for us. And because of that, he is worthy to open the scroll and finish God's plan.

You know what that means? It means the future, your future is safe in Jesus' hands. Even when life feels a little scary or confusing, we can remember: Jesus has the scroll — and he knows how the story ends. And it's good.

So, whenever you feel worried, you can say: '*Jesus is worthy. He's got this.*' ” I can trust Jesus because he loves me!

Can you repeat this with me? “Jesus is worthy... He's got this!”

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus. Help us when we're scared or confused to trust that Jesus is always with us and that Jesus is the one who will make all things turn out of the good. Amen.

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Revelation 5:1-13**

R: Our scripture reading is from Revelation, Chapter 5.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

5 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; ²and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’

⁶Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹They sing a new song:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.’

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!’

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
for ever and ever!’

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who is worthy of our honor and praise, Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, amen.

Have you ever been in a moment where you knew something important was about to happen, but you didn't know if it would turn out well? As some of you are aware, PJ and I have been struggling with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities over the permanent residential placement of our daughter, Melanie. (SLIDE) She currently lives in a nursing home where she receives excellent care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has decided she can no longer stay there, where she is safe and well cared for, but must be relocated to an Intermediate Care Facility. She had previously been in an Intermediate Care Facility, until the nurse from the facility said they could no longer properly care for her. Many years ago that placement was appropriate because Melanie was a real go-getter. She was able to participate in going to the movies or out for ice cream. She even attended shows at the Shuster Center in Dayton. Unfortunately, over these past 20 years her eyesight has deteriorated, and she can't walk or even feed herself. She requires major assistance in every aspect of daily life. We have appealed the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities 2 or 3 times already, to no avail. They have now decided she must be moved no later than September 14th. We have hired a lawyer and are appealing yet again to allow her to remain where she currently resides. We

* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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don't know what is going to happen and it feels like we have no control over what is going to happen with our precious daughter.

Let's move into the text for today... Picture it with me. (SLIDE) A scroll in the right hand of the one who sits on the throne. Written on both sides. Sealed seven times. The tension is palpable — you can feel the suspense even if you don't understand the symbols. This is not God's shopping list. This is God's plan to bring history to its completion — the renewal of all creation. To open it is to set in motion the final act of God's great story.

The question on everyone's lips is this: "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" Not "Who is strong enough?" or "Who is smart enough?" or Who is rich enough? Rather, worthiness is the key. The problem is that no one is found to be worthy. Not in heaven. Not on earth. Not under the earth. No one... Elsewhere in the Bible we're told all have fallen short of the glory of God. My friends, all means all. Even in our best moments, we all fall far short of the worthiness to even stand in the presence of the Almighty, Holy God.

So, John begins to weep. (SLIDE) Like John, I have shed more than a tear or two over the situation with Melanie... I think this is one of the most human moments in Revelation, if not in the entire Bible. John's not weeping because he doesn't understand the vision — he's weeping because, in that moment, it looks like God's good plan will never happen. The wrongs won't be righted. The pain

won't be healed. The story won't have a good ending. John isn't the only one who has ever felt like that! Just when all seems lost, the elder says, "Weep no more." This has to be the greatest "turn-around" moment in Scripture and in all of human history. You think the solution is going to be a Lion. And it is... sort of. It's not quite that simple... When John turns to look, instead of a roaring Lion he sees instead a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain. (SLIDE) The Lion roars like a Lamb. The Lamb wins like a Lion. I want to be the roaring Lion, but God calls us to be more like his precious Lamb...

Today we don't usually talk about scrolls and seals in everyday life, but we know what it feels like to face something that matters deeply, something that needs to change and be powerless to do anything about it. We watch the news. (SLIDE) Another war breaking out somewhere in the world, another shooting, leaving families devastated by grief, another natural disaster; fires breaking out in Canada, California, and the south. We look around our world and see the gap between the haves and the have-nots growing every day, like yet another wave of injustice. It can feel like the world is locked in a sealed scroll and no one can open it.

We also know this on a personal level. (SLIDE) The sealed scroll might be the brokenness in our own lives. We've all felt the sting of death or of a broken relationship that can't seem to heal. We've felt the grief that won't fade, an addiction that won't release its grip or, the immovability of governmental

bureaucrats. If we're honest, sometimes we try to fix these things with our own strength, or we find ways to distract ourselves in order to avoid them entirely. We tell ourselves, "If I just try harder... if I just distract myself long enough..."

Unfortunately, like John, we end up in tears more often than not, when we realize we can't open that scroll on our own. This is where Revelation 5 speaks so clearly.

The elder says, "Weep no more." Why? Because someone *is* worthy. (SLIDE)

Notice — not just someone powerful. Someone worthy. That's different. In God's kingdom, the one who is worthy is the one who gave everything he had, including his one and only life for others.

In the world's story, victory comes from crushing your enemies. We believe in things like peace through strength and that sometimes the only way to find justice is through more violence. This isn't the way of God's reign. In God's story, victory comes from laying down your life for your neighbor. The Lamb is worthy because he has already faced the worst the world can throw at him — violence, betrayal, humiliation and even death — and he has come through it, not with revenge, or more violence, but with a love strong enough to conquer even death itself. Here's the heart of it... The scroll of history is in good hands and not just the scroll of history, but your story and mine as well. Our stories are in the hands of the Lamb who was slain. The one who opens the future is the same one who gave himself for you.

I remember a time when I was flying on a plane in rough turbulence.

(SLIDE) I was on the Inspector General's staff and we were on our way from Wright Patterson to Los Angeles Air Force Base. The plane was being bounced around like a basketball and as I looked out my window into the darkness all I could see was the great nothing, until lightening would streak across the sky and that was even more frightening... I was more than a little nervous, I was almost ready to lose my lunch... Then I changed my focus from looking out my window to looking straight ahead in the airplane's cabin. (SLIDE) Even though the cockpit door was shut, I realized we had a very veteran pilot with years of experience in control of the plane. Suddenly, I knew my job was not to fly the plane. My job is to trust the one who was. That's Revelation 5. You don't have to be the one who opens the scroll. You can't open it any more than I could have flown that Air Force jet through that terrifying thunderstorm. Our job is to trust the One who holds the entire cosmos in His hands, Jesus Crist our Savior and our Lord...

So, what happens now? What difference does it make for us today? Just look at the response in the text, everyone worships. (SLIDE) First the elders and creatures. Then myriads of angels. Then every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea. When we realize the Lamb is worthy, we join can that song. Worship becomes not just something we do on Sunday, but the posture of

our lives. We give God our honor and praise for not just creating us and everything that exists, but for continuing to sustain us and all things now living and that will come into being in the future. We get to live in the Lamb's way. We are invited to love sacrificially. We can, and this one is still a struggle for me, but we can choose mercy over vengeance. We take up service instead of grasping for control. In a world obsessed with lions, with power, and dominance, we get to be lambs and in God's kingdom, lambs win.

I still don't know how Melanie's situation will be resolved, but I am trying to trust the one who does. (SLIDE) This week, when you face something that feels like a sealed scroll, remember the Lamb is worthy. He has the scroll. He knows the ending. And it is good. Then, like John, you can dry your tears and join the song, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever." (SLIDE)

Now may you go in the peace of the Lamb who opens the scroll, confident the ending of your story is already secure. May God give you the faith and courage to live in the way of the Lamb, which is mercy, love, and real, eternal joy. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* HYMN OF THE DAY “Thine Is the Glory”

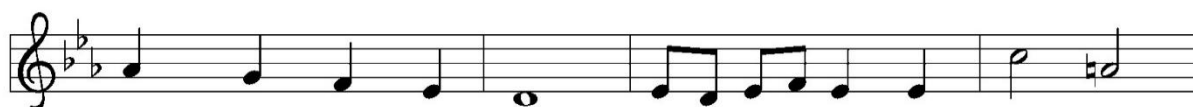
LBW 145



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

* APOSTLES' 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.

* Please stand if able

August 10, 2025

• Please be seated

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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: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: You bear God's word, O Christ, even as you embody that Word. Speak in our time—to us and through us—that the Spirit's power may move us as it did your first followers. Alpha and Omega,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The Church stands as a beacon of hope in a world that often loses heart. Keep us true to our mission and lead us away from preoccupation with petty, superficial, and nonessential things, lest our witness lose its power. Alpha and Omega,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Remind us of what lies at the heart of our proclamation: your eternal, unyielding love, O God. Place it firmly within our hearts that it might guide our minds, our words, and our actions. Alpha and Omega,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: From your wounds, we receive healing, Lamb of God. You who have known deep suffering have the power to soothe our broken souls. Lay your hands upon those whom we lift up in prayer to you, (*especially...*) Alpha and Omega,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: The prayers of your saints are like sweet incense. Have mercy on us for the sake of all the faithful, and keep us united as one family in you. Alpha and Omega,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: All things exist in and through you, loving God. Therefore we entrust our prayers, our faith, and our lives to you, in the name of Jesus.

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 ... Worthy God, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. Accept these gifts from out of your own abundance as a sign of our faithfulness to you. Bless them that they may be used for the flourishing of all that you have made.

C: Amen.

- * **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: United into one through Jesus Christ Our Lord, we pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na 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**

Roxanne Groff

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 17th
Revelation 7:9-17

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Organize your books.

BODY: Take a walk with a friend.

SPIRIT: Write God a love note.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Robby Arling
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Acolyte	
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Caleb & Morgan Custer in honor of their 4 th Wedding Anniversary.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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This Week @ Trinity – August 10 thru August 17:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Aug. 10	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Thurs, Aug. 14	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Aug. 15	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
	<i>The Great Darke County Fair Begins</i>	
Sun, Aug. 17	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

Save The Date!

Aug 19	Deadline for September Trinity Trumpet
Aug 21	Lutheran Day at The Darke Co Fair
Sept 7 @ 10 am	Joint Worship and Picnic Festivities with Pitsburg Brethren Church at Chenoweth Trails
Oct 4 @ 1 pm	Hand out Fall Festival Flyers door to door in Pitsburg
Oct 19 @ 5 pm	Trinity/Pitsburg COB Fall Festival



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.

AROUND THE PARISH - 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.

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Trinity Contact Info

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Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated