

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



Healing on the Sabbath
January 31, 2021

- **Prelude** “Jesus is Lord of All; Beautiful Sunshine; Peace Like a River; Drink and Thirst No More” **Roxanne Groff**

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

* **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 light,

C: You light a fire within us and ask us to shine, but we are quick to hide and make excuses. We shrink from challenges, avoid responsibility, and deny the goodness of your creation. We seek hollow praise and then don't believe it. Forgive us for hiding our God-given light and remaining self-absorbed.

P: Children of God, never fear, for you have always lived in the mercy of your creator. Hear the words of absolution and believe them: you are forgiven, you are made whole, you are restored to God. Hallelujah!

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Jesus Shall Reign” **LBW 530**



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.

* Please stand if able

January 31, 2021

• Please be seated

Page 2 of 13

*** 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: Mighty God, You gave the law to free your people, not sink us further into bondage. May we seek your Spirit of truth in all that we do, that our lives may glorify you always, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 6:1-16

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Luke, Chapter 6.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

6 One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ²But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” ³Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?” ⁵Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.” ⁶On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter,

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

P: 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 shows us how to live out the spirit and intent of the Law, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

A couple of years ago PJ gave me a beautiful Alpaca Wool sweater for Christmas. It's black and sort of a loose weave. I've only worn it once. The problem isn't how soft it is. It feels absolutely wonderful. PJs working today so I'm going to let you in on a secret... There are really two problems with that gift. First, I know it must have been expensive, so am afraid to wear it and second, it doesn't fit quite right. It's like most handmade sweaters, a little too wide in some spots and a little too snug in others. So, the sweater sits on a shelf in my closet. I treasure it because she gave it to me in love, but I don't get much use out of it.

It's a shame when we allow gifts to go unused or possibly even worse yet to be misused. In today's Gospel reading from Luke, we have two Sabbath controversy stories. The main point of these stories is that the Religious leaders have been misusing the god given gift of Sabbath. God gave the Hebrew people

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

the Gift of the Sabbath along with the other nine Commandments during a time when they were wandering in the wilderness. God had freed them from slavery in Egypt and through his servant Moses, God was forming them into a single cohesive Nation. In Egypt, the Hebrew people had no freedom. They worked when their masters demanded, they ate only what they were given, and they slept only when allowed to do so. They had no idea how to govern themselves, let alone how to be God's Chosen People. So, in God's infinite mercy, he delivers the Ten Commandments, including the command to remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy. The religious leaders, including some of the scribes and the Pharisees took these Ten Commandments and turned them into over 613 laws and ordinances for all the people to live by. They had turned God's good gift of ten simple laws to live by into an onerous legal system with an exception to every rule, when it suited their own purposes.

So, along comes Jesus, the very Word of God incarnate, the one who knows the mind of God, because He is God, and this Jesus of Nazareth decides the time had come to show these self proclaimed religious leaders and us the true spirit and intent behind the law. In today's reading Jesus, that radical Jesus who always seems to want to change everything, shows the religious leaders and us a thing or two about the meaning of the Sabbath and who has the authority to interpret this

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

commandment and every other one as well. Power, and authority to wield it, is what is at stake. Make no mistake about it. When Jesus allows his disciples to pick grain, thrash it in the palm of their hands and eat it, he was declaring his authority as being even over the Hebrew people's greatest king, David. In the following Sabbath controversy over the healing of the man with the withered hand, it's as if Jesus goes out of his way to heal the man on the Sabbath. This man must have been known to the scribes and Pharisees because the text says they watched him to see what Jesus would do. He must have had that withered hand before coming into the synagogue, but Jesus waited until he was in the middle of the Worship service to publicly call the man out and heal him right there in front of everyone. Jesus wanted to throw out the old traditions and show the people God's heart of love. In the first story regarding working on the Sabbath, Jesus insults the leaders when he asked them, "Have you never read the Bible?" In the second controversy, His question about doing good or evil on the Sabbath also raised the hair on the back of their heads. These men considered themselves to be the one and only experts in the law. But the times they are a changing, as Bob Dylan wrote back in the 60s.

The times are a changing again for us now. One thing this Corona Pandemic has taught us is there are more ways to worship than we ever thought or ever

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

would have dreamed of before we were forced to look outside the box this past year. I remember when some of you interviewed me over 7 years ago, before asking me to be your interim pastor. One of the topics we discussed was using technology such as websites and other gadgets like cameras to record services. The distinct impression I got was that you considered Trinity to be a small church and didn't see much of an advantage in spending our budget dollars on high tech. I think that feeling is genuine, and I like being part of a small country church.

This past year caused us to look at how we can stay connected to God and to one another when our old traditional ways to worship were taken away. A year ago, none of us would have predicted we would have more than 100 views on FaceBook and even more on YouTube. We're reaching out to our neighbors in totally new ways than we ever imagined. We're even looking into permanent cameras that can broadcast our FaceBook Live services and also record significant events in the lives of our Church Family like weddings, Baptisms, and confirmations. I don't believe God caused this Pandemic, but we've become innovative and discovered new ways to be Church together.

I wonder what other traditions we need to examine in light of the spirit and intent of God's law and God's will for our little country Church... We already took one huge step in changing to the Narrative Lectionary. We went from 4

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

scripture readings down to one reading and that reading moves through the books of the Bible in a more logical, consistent way. That one change also resulted in reading some parts of the Bible that never came up in the other lectionary we were using. My point here is that when we make significant changes in our worship traditions we try to do it so that we make the best use of all the gifts God has given to us.

Come to think of it, I believe I'll pull that Alpaca sweater out of the closet and try it on one more time because it's really a shame to have good gifts and not use them... May we always listen to Jesus and remember that all of the laws and ordinances in the Bible are subject to His interpretation. The Sabbath was made for humans not the other way around, may we keep the Sabbath Holy in our worship and in our good works giving glory to our Father in Heaven. May we keep our eyes open for ways in which our man-made traditions hold us back from living out the spirit and intent of God's will for us. May Jesus continually send his spirit to us as we try to be God's hands, feet, and mouth here in this time and this place. Glory be to God, amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- * **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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**

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

A brief silence.

L: Loosen our grip on the letter of the law and how we can use it against others. Instead, open us to the spirit of your law of love, which knows when and how to act on behalf of justice. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Reform unjust systems and shatter structures of power which trample upon the people they were intended to serve. May your ways be our ways, and may we find new paths forward by your power. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As grain provided for the needs of the disciples, so have you provided all that we truly need for life. Join us with the land and creatures who exist alongside us and free us to live in harmony with them. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Be with those who have lost jobs and other sources of livelihood, assuring them that their needs will be provided. Send your Spirit of healing to all those who we know need it, especially... God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 31, 2021

Page 9 of 13

L: Our true home lies in heaven with you, where all the saints of all the ages glorify you eternally. Inspire us to live each day fully here on earth, in assurance of that time when all will be reunited in your love. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Receive our prayers and shed light on our path as we seek to walk in your ways and bring glory to you through your son Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is a ceramic flower pot located near the back door of the church.

P: You desire offerings of gratitude, O God, but you desire honest hearts even more. Bless these gifts and turn us toward your mercy, that our lives might reflect it as we head into the world in the power of your Spirit,

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

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

C: And also with you.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", 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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✚ keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LBW 293**



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

C: **Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**

Postlude

“I Just Keep Trusting the Lord”

Roxanne Groff

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 31, 2021

Page 11 of 13

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Try a Yoga stretch
MIND: Write a thank you note
SPIRIT: Learn a new prayer



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 7th
Luke 7:1-17

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.



-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

This Week @ Trinity –January 31 thru February 7, 2021

Sun, January 31

10:30 am Worship Service

Tues, February 2

Groundhog Day

Wed, February 3

6:30 pm WELCA Meeting

Thurs, February 4

~~7:00 pm Trinity Bible/Book Club~~

Fri, February 5

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, February 7

10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

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 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

• Please be seated

January 31, 2021

Page 13 of 13