

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



Lost Sheep, Coin, Son
March 7, 2021

- **Prelude** “Savior, More Than Life to Me; God Is Love; Here Is Love; I Could Sing of Your Love Forever” **Darrell Fryman**

- **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 mercy,

C: Jesus was faithful even in the face of death, yet we so often fail you in day to day living. Our commitment is shaky, our promises are unreliable, and our actions are questionable. We quit when discipleship becomes difficult and complain that we don’t get enough credit. Forgive us our neglect of your mission and our lukewarm devotion and wake us up to the urgency of your gospel.

P: God is gracious and pardons all our shortcomings. May the giver of life forgive us our sins and restore us to the joy of discipleship and service, for the sake of Jesus our faithful Lord.

C: Amen.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE “Children of the Heavenly Father” LBW 474**



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.

* Please stand if able

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*** 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.**

*** KYRIE**

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Forgiving God, You long for your lost children to return to you. Lead us homeward on the path of repentance, that we might be restored to you and to your community in Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:1-32

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Luke, Chapter 15.

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

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep

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the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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 welcomes and yes, even eats with sinners, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

PJ and I used to like to go to concerts, a lot... We'd attend about 6 or 8 every year. Over the years we've learned to make a note of where we parked the car. We learned that through the school of hard knocks. In the early years, after parking we'd rush into the event arena so we could find our seats, get a soft drink and perhaps check out the merchandise before the show began. We were in such a big hurry to get inside we would forget where we parked the car. I remember several times wandering around in the parking lot for what seemed like 40 years in the wilderness until we finally found that lost car. We rejoiced because what was lost had now been found... That happy feeling of finally getting to sit in our vehicle and drive home was pure joy. Have you ever lost something important and had to look for a very long time before finally discovering where you left it? If so, you know the joy I'm talking about.

I remember one time when our children were young, PJ was working and I had taken all three of our children to Wal-Mart. For some reason Trevor wasn't happy. I don't remember why, but he ran off and I couldn't find him anywhere in the store. I looked in the toy department and in the video games. I even looked in

the boys clothing, but he was no where to be found. I think he was in fifth grade, so, about 11 years old. As I searched up and down the isles I began to panic. Where could he have gone? Did someone kidnap him? After searching the store from end to end I finally spoke to a manager. They immediately called an “Adam Alert.” Every store employee began searching and eventually the police were called. They expanded the search to the area outside the store and finally found him in an adjacent field just wandering around like nothing serious was happening. When the police officer returned Trevor to me, I felt so relieved and full of joy. I profusely thanked the police officer and the manager of the store. Only after getting all three kids loaded into my car did I start to feel ashamed and guilty for not keeping a closer watch on my son. Then it began to sink in. I was going to have to tell PJ and my joy was pretty short lived...

In our Gospel text for today Jesus was answering the grumbling of the religious leaders who were showing their disdain toward Him because He was welcoming and eating with tax collectors and sinners. They were not happy that Jesus was inviting such scoundrels into his presence. Instead of becoming defensive, Jesus told them three parables about lost stuff; a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a very loving Father. If I read these parables correctly, Jesus seems to be saying it’s more than simply welcoming and eating with them... In all three

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parables that which was lost was being actively sought out by the one who lost it. The shepherd didn't just stay with his flock and wait for the lost sheep to return. He left the other 99 sheep out in the wilderness, where the wolves might have gotten them, to go in search of the one who had wandered off. In the second parable, the lady searched and swept the floors. She looked under the furniture and in the cushions and pillows until she found her coin. In the third parable, the father must have been watching every day for his son to return because Jesus says he saw his son while he was still far off he ran to him and welcomed him.

This sounds a lot like our Mission Statement. You know the closing line of Liturgy we repeat every time we gather for worship. In Christ's love we seek, welcome, and serve all... Our mission, like these parables, begins with us actively searching for those who have wandered off, like the lost sheep. Our mission compels us to look for the lost and alone. I wonder if we're really 100 percent invested in this mission of ours. It's been really difficult this past year with Covid stay at home orders, social distancing, and the fear of catching a disease that has wiped out well over 500,000 of our fellow Americans and over 2.5 million world-wide. I get that... Our mission isn't always safe and it's never easy...

Maybe we're not as equipped as some other Churches to deal with the whole seeking out the lost evangelism mission... That doesn't give us a pass. Every

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follower of Jesus has that same mission, to call sinners into the body of Christ. That doesn't mean just those vague people out there who we don't know... You can be sitting in these very pews right here every week and still be lost. In fact, I might venture to say that's the very reason some of you are here week after week—because you know you're lost and are urgently seeking some word of hope amid all the despair in our world. For some others, the children you raised right here in this Church might be the ones you're called to bring back into the fold. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6 NRS). People can be lost in many ways. Some might be lost in a pile of overdue bills while being laid off... Another might be lost in grief over the death of a loved one. Some are lost in the midst of marital strife or separation or even divorce. Many times in my Air Force life I felt lost when we had to uproot our family, leave our friends and start life over again in a new place. Many of us are at a certain age where our health is uncertain and we don't know where to turn for help. Many more are simply lost in the myriad of life's tasks and chores.

Sometimes it's our fault that someone is lost... We don't like to hear that—I don't like to hear that because it means I didn't care enough or that I was too judgmental. That's a hard pill to swallow... If others are lost because of our

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failure to help them find their way, then certainly we need to examine any indifference we have to the lost and why it is there. These parables convict me and I'm pretty certain I'm not alone... It's easy to make excuses... I'm an expert at it... I'm so busy studying and writing sermons... I have to review and edit the bulletin and create the worship slides. I don't have time to worry about the lost ones because I have all this other work to do... Sometimes it's more insidious. Maybe I just think that if we bring in more of these lost repentant sinners I'll just have that much more work to do... My list of excuses is endless... We all have them. I'm not judging your efforts at seeking out the lost, because I'm not any better.

Let's put all our excuses aside for a moment. It comes down to our integrity. Do we actually do what we say we're going to do, seek, welcome, and serve. I think we've got the serving down pretty well, but our mission begins with seeking the lost ones, how are we doing at that? In order to seek the lost we need to get better at discovering all of our excuses that keep us stuck right here where we are. That's one reason we begin most Worship services with our confession. Lent is the time of year we examine ourselves and hopefully uncover our shortcomings so God can heal us. We're all lost and wounded and filled with a dozen excuses for why we're not able to seek the lost ones, but we're all also forgiven and sent on

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that very mission. Maybe you've tried talking to your family member who has stopped attending Church and your efforts have been rejected. Maybe they've been hurt by something I or someone else in the Church has said or done, or not done. None of us is perfect. Maybe all they need is one more nudge... It's time to forgive and forget past sins and mistakes. It's time to repent and return to the Lord your God...

We're all like lost sheep who have wandered away. None of us is any better or different. Thank God for our Savior, Jesus, who took on our sin and bore the pain for our wrongs. May the Lord of the lost find you and restore you to His sheepfold and in thanksgiving and gratitude for all Jesus has done for you now is the time for you to share the joy that's within you! May we learn to seek out those who are lost, even if they are part of our own families and bring them back into the family of our Savior Jesus. May the same God who rejoiced when the prodigal son returned, rejoice when we turn back to God in our own confession and repentance and may we all join the chorus of heaven every time a lost one is found. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

- **SPECIAL MUSIC “Lord, Have Mercy with At Calvary” Darrell Fryman**

*** 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.

➤ *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: We are sorry for all the things which we allow to come between ourselves and others, and between ourselves and you, O Lord. Give us a clean slate and another chance to build our relationships and renew our souls. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Be with all the children around the world who are lost to their families and whose fate is unknown. Give us the will and the strength to protect the innocent, comfort the bereaved, bring loved ones back together. Let your justice roll down and your righteousness reign over all the earth. Merciful God,

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C: Hear our prayer.

L: Forgive us for our failure to be the good stewards of the earth and all it's ecosystems, blessed creator. Make us diligent workers to guard and protect all the precious life upon this planet, with whom we are so closely bound. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hearts need healing as much as bodies. Bring us to a state of repentance which opens us to your Spirit's renewal and restores lost connections. Heal all those who ask for your help, especially... .. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We remember Perpetua and Felicity, and all those who gave themselves as martyrs for the sake of your gospel. Give us faith as solid and certain as theirs, grounded in your promises of redemption and eternal life. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

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 and for those worshipping with us on FaceBook or YouTube, please visit our website at www.pitsburgtlc.org to make your offering..

P: Let us pray for the offering we receive this day... Before your altar we bring these offerings, asking you to bless them and us. We give thanks for your mercy which allows us to serve another day in your kingdom and be instruments of your grace and peace.

C: Amen.

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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. 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:

* THE SANCTUS

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* 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 desert, 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 new 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 all the

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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: We are united into one Body of Christ by this heavenly food, 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: If even one is lost, you seek us out, O Lord. Your holy table is not full until all are present, and all feel welcome in your communion of believers. With welcoming hearts let us approach this meal alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of the body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of the Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

• POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

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• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: **Amen.**

* **SENDING HYMN** **“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”** **ELW 789**



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you for worshipping with us either in person or through the internet.

Until we gather to Worship our great God next week, depart in Christ's Love,

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

Postlude **“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”** **Darrell Fryman**

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Greeter	Teresa Neitzelt
Lector	Larry Harter
Acolyte	Robby Arling
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Floss your teeth
MIND: Set goals for the week
SPIRIT: Write down one positive thing about yourself



Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 14th
 Luke 16:19-31

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.

This Week @ Trinity –March 7 through March 14, 2021

Sun, March 7

10:30 am Worship Service

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Wed, March 10

6:30 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Christian Education Team Meeting

Fri, March 12

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sat, March 13



Sun, March 14

10:30 am Worship Service



Trinity Contact Info

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