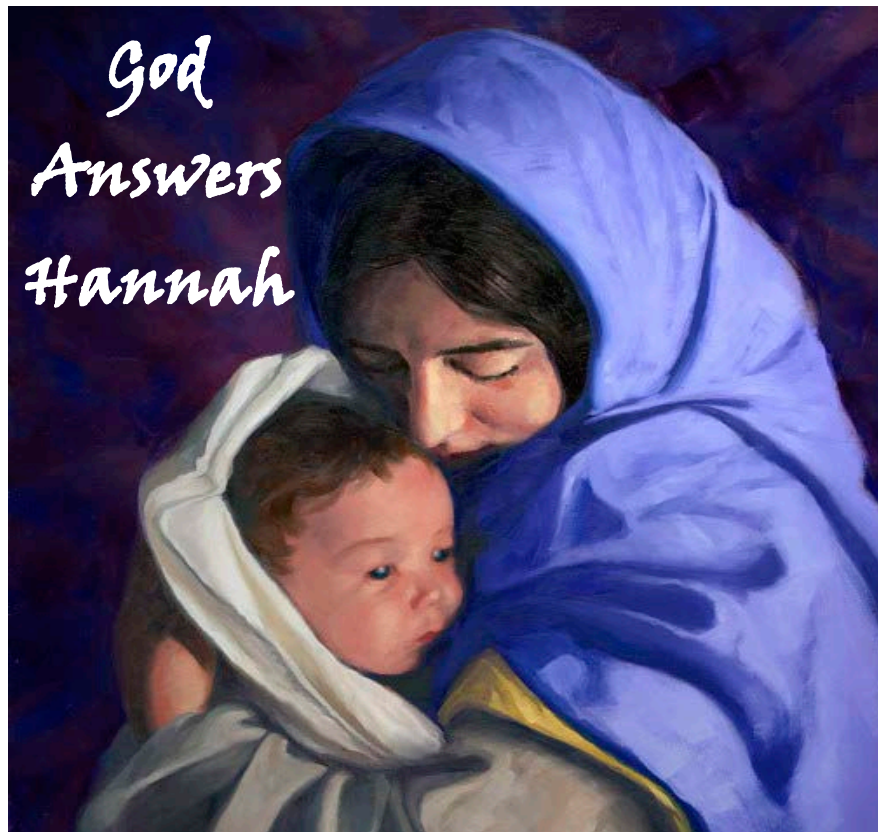


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Sermon Series on the Book of 1 Samuel
Week 1
October 18, 2020



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

• **Prelude** **“Jesus Is Lord; He Touched Me; I Love to Tell
the Story; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”** **Roxanne Groff**

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

• **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** **“For All the Faithful Women”** **Katherine Jump**

* **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 all ages,

C: You have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so.

We succumb to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

P: Dear people, hear the joyful words that God has forgiven us! Our misdeeds and folly are forgotten; grace and mercy abound. Let us give thanks that we have a compassionate creator!

C: Amen.

* **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: God of justice, You love exalting the humble and showing mercy to sinners. Give us that same heart for the oppressed, that we might work for the betterment of all and the coming of your kingdom on earth, in Jesus' name,

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

October 18, 2020

• Please be seated

Page 2 of 15

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from 1 Samuel, Chapters 1 and 2.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

¹Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.

²“There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world.

⁹“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 18, 2020

Page 3 of 15

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

The story of Hannah is very personal to me. I was born the baby of our family. I had 4 older sisters, the youngest was 10 years old when I was born. My parents really wanted a boy to finish off their family, but every time a new baby came along it was another girl. After the fourth girl they must have been resigned to an all-girl family because they named my youngest sister, most of you know her as Jr, but her full name is Harol-dene Jr. My dad's name was Harold and they must have figured Jr would be the closest they were going to get to a namesake. From the time I was old enough to understand language I can remember my mother telling me how she prayed and prayed for a baby boy. She even told me that she bargained with God. She promised God if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him to serving God. When I was young, I had no idea who Hannah was, but when I began reading the Bible and read Hannah's story it sounded just like what my mom told me as she held me on her lap as a toddler. For her part, she did make sure I was brought up in the Church and even in our darkest time, when my dad was sick and bed ridden, she still made sure I got to Confirmation classes. My religious education was that important to her. I'm really glad she didn't follow

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

the rest of Hannah's story and just drop me off at the Church and let them raise me, like Hannah did with her son, Samuel...

So, why was Hannah so special that God heard her prayer and used God's almighty powers to circumvent the natural laws of biology, in this case to open the womb of a woman who was incapable of bearing a child? To answer this question, we first need to look at the context of the Hannah story. Hannah lived about midway between God calling Abraham out of the land of Ur and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. That places this story at about 1000 BC. Moses had already led the Hebrew people for 40 years through the wilderness. His successor, Joshua, had led the armies of the Israelites into the promised land, killing or throwing out all the prior inhabitants. The people of God at that time were a very loose confederation of tribes with no central government or national identity. When trouble arose, God would raise up a leader to handle the situation. These leaders were called Judges and you can read about all of them in the Book called, Judges. The trouble with this system was that the people showed great faith during the time when a Judge was busy protecting or defending them against their enemy, but as soon as there was a period of peace and prosperity, they would turn away from God and do as they pleased. Every time they turned away, God would remove His divine protection and the natural consequences of their actions would result in being

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

overrun by their opponent. This went on and on, in what seemed like an endless cycle. Finally, the people asked God for a King like other Nations had. They thought a strong king would always protect them from their enemies.

Of course, this grieved God. Of course, this offended God. Of course, God answered their prayers. Enter Elkanah and his wife Hannah. Elkanah had 2 wives. His second wife had given birth to sons and daughters and never let an opportunity pass by without rubbing it in to childless Hannah. In the Bible there's several stories of childless women being given the miraculous gift of a child. Sarah, Abraham's wife; Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, Jesus' mother, were all chosen by God to give birth to sons' who would go on to do God's will. In the case of Hannah, her son Samuel, would grow up to be the one to anoint both King Saul and later King David when David was still a young shepherd boy.

So, here's the situation; God wants to answer the peoples' prayers for a king to lead them, even though God knows they would be much better off repenting and trusting in God as their king. At the same time God hears Hannah's prayers and feels her anguish over being childless. Bible stories like these and my own personal experience tells me, God never causes bad things to happen, but God can and does use bad things to bring about God's desired outcome. It's a pattern repeated over and over through out the Bible. So, God saw Hannah and her

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

faithfulness. God heard her prayer and the incredible promise she was willing to make, offering her son as God's servant. Hannah named her son Samuel, a name that meant God had heard and answered her prayer. When her son was old enough, Hannah did as she had promised. She took him to Eli the high priest to raise in the temple, teaching him to serve and obey God. Later, God would call the boy Samuel raising him up to be both the last judge of Israel and the first prophet (or spokesperson) for God. Samuel would be the one to anoint the first two kings of Israel who were able to bring the loose federation of the tribes of Israel together and make a great nation, strong and secure. All this was accomplished because of the powerful faith of one woman who trusted God to turn her fortunes around and to answer her prayer.

Hannah's story is an important one, even if it isn't a particularly well known today. There are several things that we can learn from this woman of God and her faithfulness. Because, truth be told, we live in a time like the one at the end of the book of Judges, with everyone doing what was right in their own eyes. Hannah felt worthless and for good reason. Her society only valued women who produced sons. Despite her feelings of worthlessness, she believed God did not see her as worthless. She trusted God to see her value and God's love for her. Our world is marred by greed and selfishness. Sin is rampant. In the greater culture, people

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

can't even agree on what's right and wrong. People are turning away from God more than any time in my life. So many lives are treated as being worthless today. Those of us who still trust in God are praying for God to do something. Do anything to save us from ourselves!

As God's people, we are called to be like Hannah during this time. We're called to continue to trust in God's goodness and God's grace. We're called, like Hannah, to implore, to beg, to bargain, to plead for what we most need and what we most desire. This pleases God because it demonstrates our faith in God's willingness and God's ability to save us. The Bible raises Hannah's life and story as an example for us today. We can still lay our needs out plainly before God in prayer. Because of stories like Hannah's we learn to trust that God hears our prayer and will use our need, wants, and desires to fulfill God's will. Hannah simply and straightforwardly expressed her need to God. In doing so, she recognized that wholeness in her life was far beyond the things she could control. Hannah knew her help rested entirely in the hands of a loving God who felt her pain and her anguish. God was and still is compassionate and able to help those who trust in God's goodness. What Good News for us today! Roughly 3000 years after Hannah prayed for a son, we're still reading about her and learning from her,

how to persist in prayer and how God uses what we perceive as a horrible situation to bring about a blessing and for God's perfect will to be accomplished.

I don't know if my mother ever read Hannah's story, but I'm certainly glad she was also persistent in her prayers for a son. Even though I spent a good part of my adult life running away from the claim God had on my life, God never gave up on me. I know God will do the same for you. God sees the shape our world is in today and my best guess is we still cause God lots of grief and frustration. In the days before King Saul and David, God used individuals to bring about the changes that were needed. After the failure of the Kings, God knew there was only one way to put an end to this problem of sin. God would have to come down here and be the King we needed and longed for. That's exactly what God did when He became incarnate and lived among us as an actual human being. Any other human king could never do. Only a perfect, sinless person could fulfill God's perfect will and be the perfect King for every tribe, nation, and people. Once a year we recognize the Kingship of Christ on Christ the King Sunday. This son, who God gave to a virgin named Mary, grew up to be not just our savior, not just a good example or a great teacher. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, He became our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, forever.

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

May Christ always be our King! May all of God's people, like Hannah, turn to God in prayer with our most urgent needs and desires. May God continue to listen to God's people and continue to bless us with His powerful and mighty, divine acts of grace and mercy. Just as Hannah trusted God and God answered her fervent prayers, may you trust in God's love for you, amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

*** 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: Waiting for something wonderful can make us impatient, and blind us to all that is before our eyes in this moment. May we constantly find reasons to be grateful in life, whether the blessings are large or small. Steadfast God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those who desire children but are unable to have them, for parents who feel regret at their choice, and for children who feel unwanted. Help us to be people who can heal the hearts of those in despair and make us whole. Steadfast God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless the efforts of those working to preserve all habitats and wildlife, amid even as our needs for natural resources grows more and more every day. Assist us in finding ways to protect this beautiful planet on which we live. Steadfast God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You hear the distress of your children when they cry to you. Comfort the suffering and bring joy to the grieved. Speed the development of life saving medicines and vaccines. Show us opportunities to sow seeds of love instead of division. Calm the angst and anger in our society and allow all people to see those on the opposite side as their sisters and brothers. Send your healing spirit to those who are in need. We especially lift up... .. Steadfast God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: With St. Luke, your evangelist, we seek to proclaim your good news in all we say and do. Keep us united with all those who have gone before us in this life and join us eternally when we reach our life's end. Steadfast God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: We place these prayers into your hands and trust that you will be merciful to your children, for the sake of 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 give to us and we give back, O God. Bless these gifts we present to you, and cultivate generous hearts within us, that your will might prosper on earth, for the benefit of all your children,

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... I'll lead the prayer and invite you to pray silently, trusting God hears what is on your heart...

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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.
3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?”
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?”

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

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

Postlude

"Take the Name of Jesus with You"

Roxanne Groff

Copyright © 2020 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.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Put your fork down between bites

MIND: Learn a magic trick

SPIRIT: Pray for your church leaders



Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 25th
2 Samuel 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

October 18, 2020

Page 14 of 15

This Week @ Trinity – October 18 thru October 25, 2020

Sun, October 18

10:30 am Worship Service

Tues, October 20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wed, October 21

6:00 pm Finance Team Meeting

7:00 pm Trinity Council Meeting

Fri, October 23

3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, October 25

10:30 am Worship Service – Confirmation Sunday

3:00-5:00 pm Trinity Fall Festival

NEXT SUNDAY

- **October 25, 2020 - Catechism Class Confirmation**
- **Also on October 25, 2020 – Trinity’s Fall Festival:** This year our Festival will be an all outdoors event for our Trinity family and their guests. It will be from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and will feature Joseph, a superb children’s entertainer and singer. We will also have gift bags for each child.

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY

- **TRINITY ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 1, 2020 following the worship service.**