

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



Ephesians 6

August 1, 2021



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



- **Prelude**

Roxanne Groff

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

- **Welcome**

Pastor 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 grace,

C: We gather in your house full of regret and remorse for the things that have kept us from fulfilling your calling. We have failed to act, and we have behaved in ways that disappoint. But we are your children, and you have promised to forgive. We ask for your forgiveness and the desire to do your work in the world.

L: God loves and forgives all of God's children. Receive God's forgiveness and move through the world unburdened by sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

LBW 522

(All Verses)



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov-'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

* 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.**

* 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.**

* Please stand if able

August 1, 2021

• Please be seated

Page 3 of 18

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of spirit, You have asked us to clothe ourselves in armor that protects our spirits from things that threaten to harm them. Teach us your ways so that we are prepared for anything this world might bring.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: The Armor of God

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Object: Pictures of a Football Uniform

Show a picture of a football helmet... Ask, "Is this the only equipment a football player needs for protection on the football field.?" The helmet is very important, but what about the other parts of the player's body? Don't they need protection too? What else does a football player need? Shoulder pads, back and stomach pads, leg pads and even proper shoes with the correct cleats for the type of weather conditions.

In our Bible lesson for today in the book of Ephesians Saint Paul tells us we Christians need to wear our protective equipment too. First, we put on our helmet of salvation. Salvation is a big word, but it just means that we're supposed to remember that God saved us from sin, death, and the devil. Paul also says we need the belt of truth to protect us. Do you know the difference between the truth and a lie? Sometimes it's hard to figure that out, but we have a place we can look to help us figure it out. It's called the Bible. In the Bible there's all kinds of stories that help us understand the truth about Jesus, about God, and about ourselves. Paul also says the best shield we could ever have against the bad things is our faith. Faith means we can trust Jesus and we can trust God to always be with us and to protect us.

Can you buy any of this kind of special equipment at the sporting goods store? No! Of course you can't... The only place you can find this kind of protective equipment is at Church! This is the place we learn about salvation, truth, peace, faith, and love. I hope and pray you will always come to Church for safety and protection from all the evil that's in our world. This is a place of safety and a place where you are always loved and protected.

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for all the protective equipment we can get right here in your Church. Thank you for watching out for us and being with us everywhere we go. Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 6:10-20**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Ephesians Chapter 6.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

• **SERMON**

Pastor Mel Musser

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

If you've been on a plane any time in the last 25 years, you probably took a moment to leaf through the SkyMall catalog. If you haven't flown or don't remember, this was a catalogue full of innovative and weird products you don't really need. Items like a Yeti garden sculpture? How about a sleep mask that

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

plugs into your iPod or a pen that takes pictures? Leafing through that catalog on a long flight, you might have thought you really did need that replica Harry Potter wand or that voice-recognition grocery list organizer. The last several times when I've flown, I've missed that Sky Mall catalog. It turns out SkyMall filed for bankruptcy. They're still around, but now their merchandise is offered, you guessed it, online at their website... Seems that now, in a world where gadgets are multiplying at a high rate of speed, people aren't waiting until they fly to do their shopping for battery-operated gadgetry. Gadgets are now no longer novel. In fact, they're almost totally passé. My email is full of offers for the latest and greatest gadgets most of which are totally useless... The best new gadgets seem to feature wearable tech. Smart watches, activity trackers that you wear on your wrist (like Fitbit) and cameras that you can wear on your helmet, are becoming more common, as are other devices that have the potential to make your life more interesting, if not better. When I was in seminary wireless ear buds that connected to your cell phone first came out and I bought one. The first time I wore it I forgot to remove it as my class began. The professor actually stopped the lecture and asked me to remove the device from my ear as it was distracting her from her prepared lecture... While a lot of this gadgetry is interesting, most of it isn't essential, nor is it a cure-all for the inherent messiness of life. A smart watch

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

might make it easier to answer your phone or check your calendar quickly, but it won't protect you from over-scheduling yourself. Your helmet camera may record cool videos of that epic ski run or downhill mountain bike ride, but it won't keep you from bashing into a tree. In fact, our reliance on tech sometimes gets us into trouble, like the people who hike with a wristwatch GPS instead of a map and then get hopelessly lost when they're out of satellite range.

What if there was wearable tech that never fails, is highly mobile, offers ironclad protection from danger and never runs out of power? The apostle Paul offers us a catalog snapshot of just such a product, and the cool thing is that it's free! It's a figurative "suit of armor" that's actually functional, unlike the 6-foot-tall Italian Armor Sculpture available in the SkyMall catalog.

The Greek word for the suit of armor Paul described in our text is "panoply." (SLIDE) Panoply was the light, maneuverable, state-of-the-art armor of the Roman legionnaires. Designed to be used within the virtually impenetrable Roman military formation known as the phalanx, (SLIDE) the panoply featured gadgets with both offensive and defensive capabilities that shielded the empire from its outside threats better than any anti-virus software for your smartphone could ever do. This was wearable tech at its most basic and most effective. The front-line soldiers held their shields straight up while the second rank held their shields over

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

their heads and covered both their own head and the head of the soldiers on the front line. The shields were designed to lock together so as to protect the entire formation.

(SLIDE) Paul saw the Roman panoply as a metaphor for the kind of tech that the church needed to wear in order to survive “the wiles of the devil” and stand against “the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (vv. 11-12). Unlike the Roman legions, whose panoply was designed to “struggle against enemies of blood and flesh,” the church's enemies are those powers that seem always to be poised to invade our lives, often through the very gadgets that we carry, wear and watch. If you glance at your cell phone, your tablet or your computer, and chances are you'll see plenty of images and invitations that are contrary to the will of God, even if you're not looking for them. The evil is so prevalent it's like the haze we've been breathing in from the wildfires out west for the past week or so... The more convenient our lives become, it seems, the more complacent we become in guarding our hearts and minds.

Paul's metaphor is an invitation for the church to band together to defeat the spiritual enemy that is always poised to strike at us. The Roman panoply was such that an individual soldier was protected only so long as he stayed in ranks with his

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

mates, their shields locked together, facing the enemy. If an individual broke ranks, either to fight on his own or to run, he was vulnerable. The tech only works when it's used in community. We miss this reality, particularly because in our highly individualized, cell-phone-staring, button-pushing and thumb-twitching world, we don't realize that we're only as good as the community of people around us. Ultimately, it wasn't the armor that saved the Roman soldier in battle; it was his connection to the others.

Paul urges the church to suit up and check their connections to each other if they are to “withstand on that evil day” (v. 13). The apostle then goes on to describe each piece of wearable tech that, when used together, makes for a strong defense against the forces of evil. He begins with the “belt of truth” that is foundational to the strength of any group of people. The ability to trust one another and speak the truth is essential to both soldiers and churches (v. 14). The belt of truth enables the community to “put away falsehood” that “leaves no room for the devil” to operate (vv. 25-26). Our gadgets can be used for gossip, to separate, and to cancel those who may have different opinions or points of view, so Paul begins with truth -- the wearable tech that is most protective of the cohesion of the community of faith.

The “breastplate of righteousness” and the “helmet of salvation” (vv. 14, 17) are echoes from Isaiah 59:17, where God himself puts on the armor to go out and repay his enemies for their evil. God's righteousness and salvation guard our hearts and heads in the knowledge that he has already defeated the enemy through the righteousness and salvation offered by Christ on the cross. Like a heart rate monitor app on your smart watch, the knowledge of what God has done for us in Christ, revealed in the “word of God,” helps us to gauge our spiritual health. The grace, mercy, and forgiveness offered to us helps us stay strong in the knowledge that we are eternally protected from the slings and arrows of the evil one, even when we fail or err.

Paul uses these images to encourage the church to put on “whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace” (v. 15). The best defense is a good offense, thus the church that's constantly moving outside its walls to preach the gospel of peace in the community through both words and actions will be most equipped to “stand firm” even while moving out into the neighborhood. The shield was a critical piece of the legionnaire panoply, since it provided the primary protection for both the individual and the entire group. For the church, faith acts as a kind of shield against “the flaming arrows of the evil one” (v. 16). A strong faith

is not just the product of individual devotion, it's the result of a church that rallies together in defense of the gospel and holds up those who are struggling.

At last, we come to the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (v. 17). One of the upsides of having all this wearable tech is that we have easy access to Scripture in our pockets and on our wrists. The writer of Hebrews tells us Scripture is a “sharp, two-edged sword” that cuts both ways -- it slices into the lies of the enemy and it can cut us to the heart when we are convicted of our sin. The more we engage in reading Scripture, the more we're able to see the enemy's catalog of temptations for doing evil for what they are: worthless junk that is harmful to both body and soul.

SkyMall may be on the way out, but gadgets are here to stay. New inventions are popping up all the time, especially with the advent of crowdsourcing that allows others to invest in a good idea. Paul reminds us, however, that it's the tried-and-true products that really stand the test of time, especially when it comes to guarding our lives in Christ. May each of us put on the whole armor of God so that together we can remain a Church both on the offense taking on the very gates of hell itself and ready to defend the Gospel. May we never tire of sticking together as we spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every corner of this territory. Amen.

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Silence may be kept for meditation...

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

* **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.

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: In a world of uncertainty, our first temptation is to defend ourselves, our views, our perceived “home territory.” Show us clearly what it is that truly threatens us—narrow mindedness, selfishness, fear—and equip us to break down the true enemies of our soul. Almighty protector,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Show us the places where our shortsightedness causes harm to others, to relationships, and to our world. Teach us to stand instead in defense of the helpless, the less fortunate, and the persecuted. Almighty protector,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we travel our neighborhoods, our land, and territories beyond, open us to being transformed by the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable and unwelcome surprises. You have given us all that we need; now help us to grow in faith and courage. Almighty protector,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The wounded are all around us, Lord. Victims of war, disaster, abuse, and misfortune. Take us beyond pity and into the front lines of healing and

* Please stand if able

August 1, 2021

• Please be seated

Page 12 of 18

reconciliation. We offer special prayers for... Almighty protector,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We remember your faithful who have hung up their earthly armor, but now rest in your heavenly arms. Join us in one sacred mission: spreading the good news to all. Almighty protector,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: You are our protection, our comfort, and our strength, O Lord. Keep us, and these prayers, in your safe and sure embrace, for in you alone we put our trust.

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 an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... You care for our spirits, Lord. You give us what we need to nurture our faith. Receive these gifts that we offer back to you, so that others may be clothed in faith, truth, and love. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

• Please be seated

*** 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 Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

P: Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. 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 together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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: All are invited to rejoice in Christ's feast of forgiveness, faith, truth, hope, peace, and love. Come celebrate together this meal that unites us in the spirit.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

- **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... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: **Amen**

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

* SENDING HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

LBW 495



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

* DISMISSAL

P: 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

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


August 1, 2021

Page 16 of 18

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Chris Cassel
Acolyte	Robby Arling
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Touch your toes
MIND: Clean out your car
SPIRIT: Donate to a charity



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 8th
 Psalm 46; Acts 2:37-42



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

