

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

Fully Forgiven



2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9;
Psalm 51:1-9
October 23, 2022



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

Pr 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: Gracious God,

C: We have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have taken what is not ours, and justified our actions. We have turned away from your wisdom. We have not done justice, loved kindness, nor walked humbly with you. Forgive us for the harms we have caused through word and action, and restore us to the joy of following your will for us.

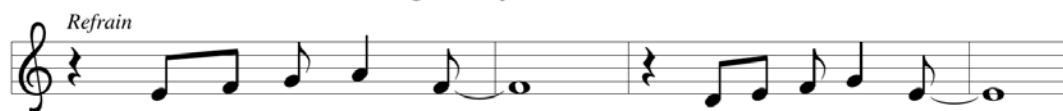
P: God knows our every weakness and yet loves us without ceasing. Rejoice and be glad, for the God of grace and mercy forgives you all your sins, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Change My Heart, O God”

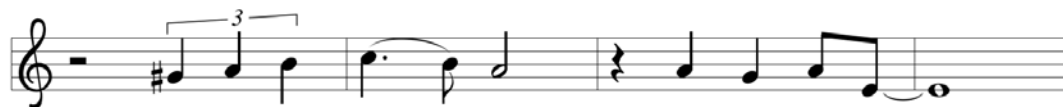
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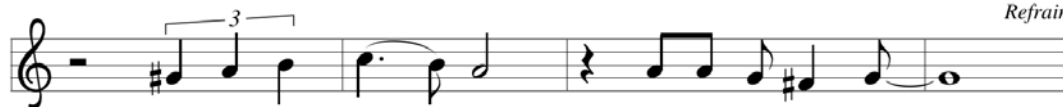
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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*** 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 of forgiveness, David betrayed your commandments and committed terrible crimes. Yet even his horrific sins were not too much for you to forgive. Remind us that there is nothing we can do that will turn you away from us.

C: **Amen.**

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: God Forgives Us our sins

Object: Cookies

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-5; 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9

Good morning boys and girls. I hope you all had a great week. I want you to close your eyes and think about a time when you might have stole something like a cookie from a cookie jar or when you might have told your parents or grandparents a fib or even a real outright lie. Don't tell me about it, at least not in front of everyone... You know we all have things we've done or said or even things we've thought about that we know are wrong. Even though we know they're wrong we do them anyway. You can open your eyes and look at the next slide... The one at the end would be what would happen to me if I ever tried to steal a cookie...

Our Bible story for today tells the story of when King David did something so bad the Bible says it was evil in the sight of God. You remember David from Sunday School. He's the boy who killed the giant, Goliath with his slingshot. Well that story was when David was a very young man maybe only 12 or 13 years old. Many years later David was such a great warrior and leader he was known as the greatest of all the Kings of Israel. He might have been great, but he wasn't perfect. David sinned just like everyone else.

Do you know anyone who is alive now or ever was alive in the past who was completely and totally without any sin at all? That's right it was Jesus. He came down to earth from heaven and lived until the religious leaders and the Romans crucified him. He died on a cross because of the sins of all of us and of all the people everywhere who ever lived and who will ever live in the future... That's a lot of sin for one man to bear, but that's what Jesus did for you and for me.

Let's pray, Dear Jesus, we can never thank you enough for all you did for us. Help us to love you and show our thanks by being loving and kind to every one we meet. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING:** 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9

P: The Scripture includes readings from the book of 2 Samuel, Chapters 11 and 12, and Psalm, Chapter 51.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ²It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ⁷When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

12 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him."

⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." ⁷Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites."

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

51 ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

L: 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 sinless one, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

No one likes to have their errors, their sins, pointed out to them, but sometimes it's a necessary thing. We all need someone in our lives to act like Nathan did to King David. The Bible doesn't tell us what was going through Nathan's mind while he was telling his hypothetical story about the poor man and his little baby lamb. Speaking truth to power is never easy and never done without a certain bit of fear and trepidation. My guess is Nathan's hands were shaking, his palms were probably sweating, and his voice was quivering. Yet his conversation with King David produced the result God already knew was in David's heart.

Let's take a moment to review the story. David was the youngest son of Jesse from Bethlehem. He was picked over all the other sons of Jesse because the

* Please stand if able

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Bible say God doesn't look on the outer appearance, but on what is in the heart. God must have seen something in David everyone else missed. David is still widely known as the greatest King in the history of Israel, yet he committed some of the most despicable crimes recorded in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is full of despicable behavior... The lectionary reading for today skipped over 20 verses in the middle of chapter 12. If all you knew was what we heard this morning you might think poor Uriah the Hittite had died of some disease or as a legitimate war hero. Our text says it was the springtime of the year. That's the time when Kings led their troops out to battle. Did you notice that King David decided to stay home in Jerusalem instead of leading his troops against the dreaded Ammonites? While he was AWOL, he committed Adultery and according to some commentaries, likely raped Bathsheba. After this one night stand left Bathsheba pregnant, David ordered his commanders to put Uriah front and center in the fiercest part of the battle. After he was in place, David ordered all the troops around Uriah to retreat, leaving poor Uriah standing alone against the entire army of the Ammonites. David effectively ordered Uriah's murder. By my count that's at least 5 broken commandments all wrapped up in a neat little package. It's hard to find a more despicable set of behaviors, even by today's standards. Yet the Bible never says God made a mistake in choosing David, nor does the Bible record God being sorry for allowing this murdering rapist to remain King.

Before we get too critical of David or for that matter critical of God for allowing such bad behavior, let's look at our own lives and behavior just a little. If we're honest with ourselves breaking 4 or 5 commandments isn't all that hard. Most of us do that before breakfast and we call that a Tuesday... Even if we use the Readers Digest version of the Commandments Jesus gave when asked by a Lawyer about the greatest commands we fare no better. Jesus said the greatest Commandment is to love the Lord your God with all you heart, mind, soul, and might. He went on to say a second command is as important as the first, to love your neighbor as yourself. In David's case and your case and mine, we break those two every day, most of us multiple times every day.

David didn't start out thinking he was going to break almost every rule of civilized society. He started out by neglecting his most important job as King, to lead his army in battle. He might have had other pressing business, but I suspect he was simply taking time to do some "self-care"... While he was taking care of whatever it was that he was doing, he noticed a strikingly beautiful woman bathing on the roof of her home. Now, if you love the Lord God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, you might notice such a sight, but instead of dwelling on it or acting on it you thank God for creating such beauty in the world, just like you might notice a beautiful butterfly or a lovely flower. When your mind is on God you might even pray for the health and happiness of the woman and her husband.

Instead, David coveted Uriah's wife and then committed sexual assault or at the very least adultery with her. It all stemmed from David's not loving God with his whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, or his neighbor as himself.

At this point David was as far away from God as he had ever been in his life. He didn't even recognize how far he had strayed from God. It took a prophet named Nathan to point out his sin. This is where David responded quite differently from most of the rest of humanity. Once aware of the wrong he had committed, David spent the rest of his life repenting. You can't read the story of David and Bathsheba without understanding how much David lamented the sins he had done. That's why our lectionary included the 51st Psalm along with this story. Scholars are still debating how many and which Psalms were actually written by David and which were written by someone else and simply attributed to him. In my Bible, there's a historical note at the beginning of Psalm 51 that says, "To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." David either wrote the Psalm or it was written by someone else who was very familiar with the story of David and Bathsheba and knew of David's secret sins.

Most people don't react the way David did when confronted by sin. We tend to become defensive. We tend to deny our responsibility. We tend to become angry and lash out at the one who shows us what we've done. At least I do... Just

look at the way the religious leaders responded to Jesus when he pointed out their failures in leading the people of Israel. Not only did they refuse to repent, they believed they were already righteous in God's eyes. They didn't just get angry at Jesus, they nailed him to a cross, just for pointing out their sin.

As time went by, and before Nathan entered the scene, David must have felt relieved he had gotten away with such heinous crimes. He seemed to have everyone fooled. Then along came Nathan. In verse 27 it says the thing David had done displeased the Lord. God wasn't asleep at the wheel when David decided to run amuck. God hadn't forgotten his servant David, it was David who forgot God... In one of his books, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged at the age of 39 on April 9, 1945 by the Nazi SS wrote: "The Devil does not fill us with hatred for God, only forgetfulness of God." The Devil makes covert war on God's people. We don't even notice some of the Devil's insidious ways. "Just don't talk about religion in public", the Devil says... "Keep Church and State separate", the Devil says... "Don't share your faith or you might be laughed at", the Devil says... "You can create our own man-made cultural rules about the sanctity of life and marriage", the Devil says, "You don't have to listen to the Bible..." Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company, was asked by a reporter; "To what do you attribute your 50 years of successful married life?" "The formula," said Ford, "is the same formula I have always used in making cars - just stick to one model." I

believe most of our overt sin could be eliminated if we could only stick to the first Commandment, having no other gods in our lives. Martin Luther famously said anything that comes between you and the Lord your God is your idol. It doesn't matter if your god is looking at a beautiful person of the opposite sex on your neighbor's roof or anyplace else, when your lustful mind separates you from God, it has become your idol. It might be addiction to shopping or video games. It might be watching television or playing golf on Sundays. Whatever it is that separates you from God has become your god...

Why should we pay attention to this old story about King David and his adulterous ways? Back when I was a brand new officer in the Air Force my first boss used to berate and belittle the other officers for their lapses and failings in front of all of us in the staff meetings. I was too new to experience the brunt of his ire, but it got so intense I went to our commander and asked her why he did that. I never forgot her answer and it has served me well. She said he put those officer's behaviors front and center so that the rest of us could learn from their mistakes and avoid making the same errors. We can all learn from David's mistakes. When I say we can all learn from David's mistakes I'm not talking about sticking to one model and never sinning again. I'm pretty sure that's not possible for the likes of the human species. We'll always be sinners... No, what I'm talking about is learning from David what to do when we come to realize our sins. As much as

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

God wants humans to love Him and each other, when we fail, and we will fail, God loves us even more when we repent and live our lives differently afterward. I think that's what it means when the Bible tells us God looks at what's inside of us. God knows when we sin and God knows when we're truly sorry. I believe God knew David's sorrow and forgave all his iniquity.

May we be people who see ourselves in light of both our sin and God's forgiveness. May we live our lives repenting every day from the old Adam and Eve in us so that we can walk in newness innocence, and in love. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** 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.*

* Please stand if able

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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Certain of your justice and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: God who surprises us with faithfulness when we least deserve it, show us mercy when we fail, and help us to walk in your ways boldly and with grace. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: When we fall short, creation suffers. Yet when we strive for faith, hope, and love, creation sings your glory. Make us good stewards of all you have made, that we may sing your praises together. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: As King David proved, even great leaders fall short. Forgive our world's leaders for the things they do or don't do, and give them repentant hearts, that they might govern with justice. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Heal all who struggle with illness, pride, selfishness, addiction, abuse, grief, or anything that causes suffering, (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Open our eyes to see human need within our community, and give us hearts and hands to fill those needs at every turn. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we look to the saints for their leadership in modeling humility with their lives of love and service to you. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: We lift all for whom we pray into your loving arms, O God, in the name of Jesus, our savior.

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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

*** 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.... Generous God, we offer ourselves to you, imperfect as we are, to serve as you direct us. Accept us and these, our humble gifts, for your work in the world.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the tie that binds us together. 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.

• MISSION MOMENT

PJ Musser

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

* **SENDING HYMN** **“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”** **LBW 296**



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict, man - y_a doubt,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 yea, all I need in thee to find,

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

* **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

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 30th
1 Kings 3:4-9, [10-15], 16-28

NOVEMBER TRINITY TRUMPET – Please pick up your copy of the November Trinity Trumpet which can be found on the bulletin table.



**FALL
FESTIVAL**



**3:00 pm this afternoon. Dress in costumes – enjoy games, trunk or treat, crafts, cake walk, and food!
KIDS: Bring a friend!**

This Week @ Trinity – October 23 thru October 30, 2022

Sun, Oct. 23	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	<i>Fall Festival</i>
Tues, Oct. 25	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, Oct. 26	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Fri, Oct. 28	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 30	10:30 am	Worship Confirmation Sunday

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 6 – Annual Congregational Meeting
- November 13 – Thankoffering Service
Christmas Auction
- November 20 – Thrive! Victory Sunday – Potluck/Carry-in Lunch
- November 23 @ 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Worship Service
- November 27 @ time TBD – Saint Nicholas Speaks Advent Event
- December 3 @ 10:00 am – Christmas Program Practice
- December 4 @ 11:30 am - Christmas Program Practice
- December 10 @ 10:00 am - Christmas Program Practice
- December 11 @ 10:30 am – Children’s Christmas Program
- December 24 @ 4:00 pm and @ 9:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Get an annual physical
MIND: Read a book of jokes
SPIRIT: Read about Jesus to a child

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.



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.

Trinity Contact Info

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