

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

All Saints Sunday
God's Care for the Widow



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- **Prelude** *“This Little Light of Mine; When the Saints Go Marching In; Somebody Bigger Than You and I; Give Us This Day”*

Roxanne Groff

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

- **Welcome**

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism...

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of the covenant,

C: You have never failed in your promises to us, but we often fail to be your faithful people. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love.

P: God hears us when we repent and is quick to pardon our failures. Hear the words of your forgiveness and believe that you have been restored by your creator's great mercy and compassion. Rejoice!

C: Amen.

*** GATHERING SONG “For all the Saints” (Vs. 1 only) LBW 174**

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*** 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**

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

P: 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.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Steadfast God. We thank you for the gift of all your saints who have told us the stories of your infinite love and grace. May we accept the people and the signs you send our way to help us on the path you have set out for us, and give us the faith to always trust in your mercy.

C: **Amen.**

• SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 17:1-24

L: Our scripture reading for this morning is from 1 Kings, Chapter 17.

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

17 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” ²The word of the Lord came to him, saying, ³“Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” ⁵So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. ⁷But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed

you.”¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.”¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.”¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.¹⁸ She then said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!”¹⁹ But he said to her, “Give me your son.” He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed.²⁰ He cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?”²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child’s life come into him again.”²² The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.²³ Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, “See, your son is alive.”²⁴ So the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

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

This has been a hard week for lots of people. PJ's unit at the hospital was converted to a Covid patient floor. She doesn't actually go into rooms with Covid patients, but they are on her floor. She told me yesterday that they have now opened yet another Covid unit. They're up to 4 Covid floors now. The sad part is that we need so many Covid units after all these months of fighting this disease. Then, early in the week I found out my niece Shelly's husband, in Illinois, was diagnosed with Covid. On Friday my son-in-law, Jake was tested for Covid because he started developing the symptoms. We're still waiting for his results. Lutheran Churches in Clark and Greene Counties have stopped all in person activities. This week I thought long and hard and prayed long and hard about how we're worshipping and the risks we take in coming to worship. As I prayed and pondered, I imagined how Elijah might have felt as he prayed, not once, not twice, but three times for the life of the widow's son. Elijah covered the him with his prayers, but he also physically covered him with his own body. Maybe that was to warm the dead corpse of the widow's son or to simply try to give the dead boy some of his own life's energy, I can't say... The point I got from the story of Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath, is that even during the darkest of times God sustains you and keeps the witness to his power and glory alive. In the end the Widow confesses her faith in the Word of the Lord. The life and times of the widow aren't much different from the times we're going through today.

So, with the Covid up-tick, All Saints Day being one of the oldest high church Sundays, and the added time consideration of our annual meeting bearing down I debated with myself about keeping or cutting various parts of our All Saints Day Worship service. As I did, those beautiful words of the Kyrie kept coming back into my mind. I did a little research on Google and discovered it's one of the oldest parts of the Christian Worship Service. We know this because the earliest copies of the prayer are in the Greek language. Sometime between the 4th and 5th centuries the Roman Catholic Church translated everything into Latin, so we know, if it was being used in worship in Greek, it must have been prior to the 4th or 5th century. The Kyrie is a prayer the earliest followers of Jesus uttered because it spoke to the greatest need of their heart, for the peace of God which passes all human understanding to come to them. This was also a time of despair as the followers of Jesus faced a literal death sentence, just for claiming Jesus is Lord. Today we're living through a dark time called a Pandemic. We've already lost over 220,000 of our fellow citizens. So, I ask you, the Body of Christ on earth today, do we still need to pray for that kind of peace in our lives, in our culture, and for our Church and our country? Does our world still cry out desperately for the peace which comes down from heaven?

I opened this homily with my complaints about this pandemic, but the week didn't get any better. I watched the news in horror as a person in a pick-up truck

ran over a protestor in the street of one of our biggest cities. That same day I heard news of terrorist beheadings inside a church in France. The answer God seemed to be pushing me toward all week was that now is the time to pray for peace and yes, our world still needs God's peace more and more every day. At that point I knew the power of praying these words, as the body of Christ here on earth, far outweighed the risk of spreading Covid-19 and the risk of wasting precious worship time it would take to pray them.

Our world does still need that peace, but it also needs the witness of all the saints. I tell you all this, so you know how seriously I take our precious worship time. When I'm at home or out and about, I feel I can talk to Jesus about anything and He always listens, but there must be more to following Jesus than me and my personal time with Him. The truth the earliest Christians discovered was the unity of faith and purpose God created as they gathered together in Worship. That's when they received the peace from above. That's how God sustained them during their darkest times. That same Holy Spirit still encourages and sustains us as we witness our faith to the world. When we join our voices together, we speak a witness loud and clear to Satan and to his powers at work in this world, that we are still trusting in God to come here and be with us and to sustain us. God sustained Elijah, the widow and her son through the drought, God gave the early Church His peace and sustained it through the great persecutions, and God continues to sustain

us through this pandemic. I can't promise when we pray the Kyrie or any prayer together, God will raise the 220,000 dead from Corona, but I can promise God's peace will come and God's people will be blessed. I know one thing for certain, the chaos in the streets and the chaos in our hearts can only be tamed by the peace from our God above and God's people need to be praying for that peace.

A seemingly endless line of Saints has gone before us and these ancient words of our Liturgical Worship Service have been handed down to us as our Christian Heritage. We should always be asking ourselves, "How is this prayer or praise or song relevant to our world today?" If it's not, we have the opportunity, no, the responsibility, as the Body of Christ on earth ensure our Worship services are relevant and that we're making a difference in the world today. On the other hand, if a prayer, like the Kyrie asks for the one thing our world and our individual lives need the most, then perhaps we should consider making it a more prominent part of the time we spend as Christ's Body on earth.

This week, I ask you to re-read the prayer we call the Kyrie and join your voice to the Billions of Christians who have cried out to God, "Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! ... Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

* **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

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: We give you thanks for all the people who have guided us, helped us, and provided key support on our journey. Make us signposts and blessings to others so your story is lived out in all generations. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Creation is meant for our sustenance and enjoyment, and naturally replenishes what is taken from itself. Because of our Sin we have become greedy and take more than we need. Transform our hearts to more closely reflect your desire for equality and compassion for all life. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: This widow and the people of her time were brought down into despair due to drought and famine. We are brought down by the effects of this Covid Pandemic. As you sustained the widow and her son, also revive us when we are dead to hope and resigned to despair. Send your spirit of healing to all those whom we know are in need. We lift to your throne of grace and mercy, Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: On this All Saints Day we remember those who have completed their earthly journey and are resting in the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we remember each of our own dearly departed loved ones and after every five names are spoken, the Church bell will toll. After all names have been read please respond in faith that they are “**Here with Us**”.

(The list of names is read aloud...)

All Saints Day List 2020

Myrl Lephart

Jerald Netzley

Jim Lephart

Winifred Netzlie

Helen Thompson

Timothy Netzlie

Earl Thompson

Jonathan Netzlie

Laszlo Koos

Marilyn Welker

Bell Toles

Bell Toles

Ann Kendall

Harold Musser

Bill Kendall

Elma Musser

Jill Elaine Witters

Pamela Skwarlo

Richard Schenck

Alice Street

Joe Williams

Libby Angles

Bell Toles

Bell Toles

Kenneth Mehaffie

Albert Jackson

Pauline Mehaffie

Helen Jackson

Kenneth Johnson

Lianna Powers

Eileen Johnson

Clint Patterson

P: We give you thanks for these Saints and for all who shared your love with us. Keep us bound together in the love of our savior until we are all reunited in your heavenly kingdom. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Hold all those for whom we pray in your loving embrace, and hear our prayers

for the sake of the one who prayed for us, Jesus Christ 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. For those worshipping with us at home through FaceBook or other online media, you can make your offering through our website at www.pitsburgtlc.org and click on the Donate Button.

P: Let us pray... You don't want showy buildings and burnt sacrifices, O God, but rather honest and generous hearts. Receive these gifts we offer and bless them that your kingdom might come on earth, for the sake of our Lord,

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise and so, with all the saints of every time and every place, we praise you, O God, for you created and continue to create the world. With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food. With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, we worship you, O God, for you shelter us and provide our every need. With all your holy people who minister in the church, for those who serve the poor, and all who walk the way of the cross, we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth. With all your saints in heaven and on earth, we remember the meal of your Son:

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.

Send your spirit into this bread and this cup, make it for us the very presence of the body and blood of Christ. Form us into a community of service and infuse

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated

your earth with your peace and justice. With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal, and especially with all of our named and unnamed saints who in faith are still here with us, in faith we give you honor and glory...

C: Amen!

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: United into one through this heavenly food, we 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: Let us come to the feast of mercy and celebrate the Lord who never leaves us without.

P: At this time, please open the Ziplock baggie and take the Body of Christ given for you at this time. ... Now, please remove the lid from the wine cup. We drink from this cup which is the Blood of Christ shed for you.

P: Please dispose of the empty cups and baggies in the trash can on your way out when you're dismissed after worship.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Our announcements are as written in the Bulletin, which is available on our website at www.pitsburgtlc.org.

*** BLESSING**

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

C: Amen

* **SENDING SONG**

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

LBW 383

(Verse 1 only)



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

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

Postlude

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

	Today	Next Sunday
Ministers	All the People of Trinity	All the People of Trinity
Lector	Kathy Kathman	WELCA Ladies
Acolyte		
Organist	Roxanne Groff	Roxanne Groff
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser	PJ Musser
Custodians	Mark Groff	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman	Sharon Fourman

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Get a massage

MIND: Learn the candidates and issues on the ballot

SPIRIT: Pray for our Government officials

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated



This Week @ Trinity – November 1 thru November 8, 2020

Sun, November 1 – ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting

Tues, November 3 – ELECTION DAY

Wed, November 4

6:30 pm WELCA Meeting

7:00 pm Trinity Bible/Book Club

Fri, November 6

9:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting

Sun, November 8 – THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

10:30 am Thankoffering Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 8th
Matthew 5:1-12

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