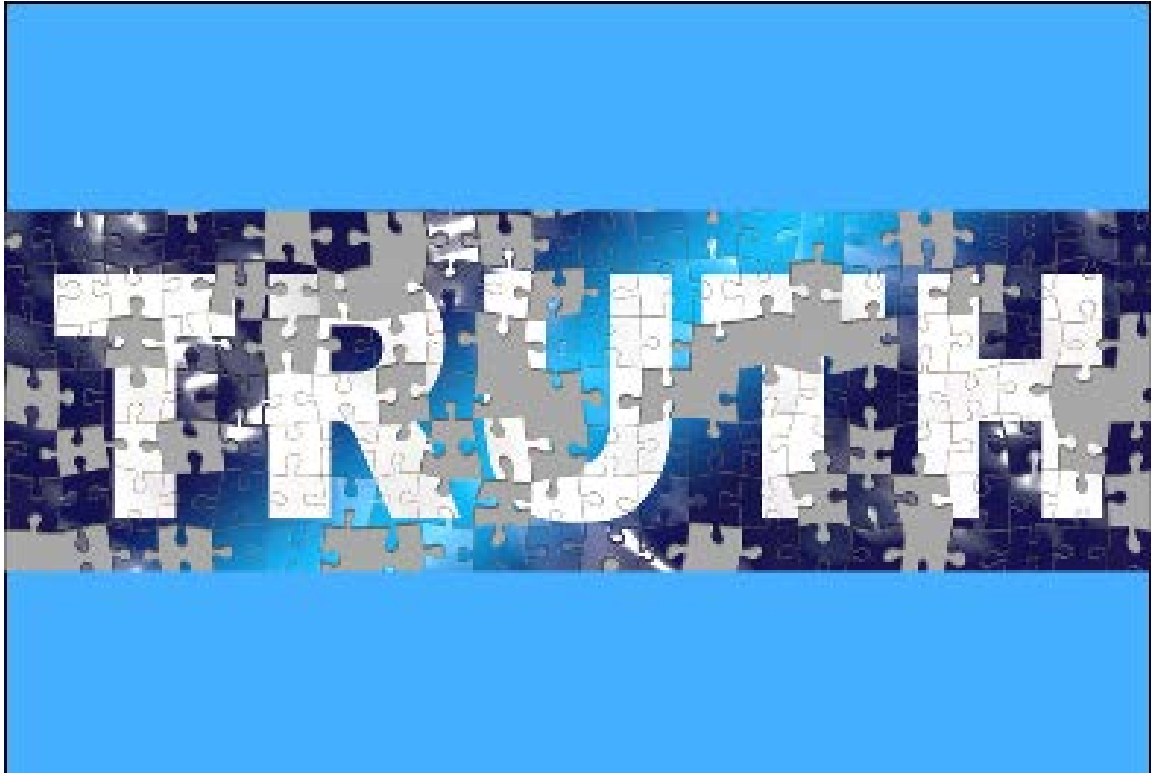


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



John 18:28-40
March 27, 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**

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: Merciful God,

C: These 40 days we reflect on how our sin bleeds into the world, leaving a mark that we cannot remove. Forgive all we have done and failed to do, and cleanse us from the stain of sin.

L: Our God is gracious and forgiving. God does not desire that we wallow in the brokenness, but instead cleanses us and makes us new. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sin, and walk in newness of life. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

LBW 514



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
 2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
 3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
 thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
 the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
 in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
 and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

* **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... Lord Jesus, even in the middle of interrogation, you kept your eyes on the mission before you. Grant us courage in the face of danger, and conviction when it would be easy to falter.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 27, 2022

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: What is the truth

Materials: N/A

Scripture: John 18:28-40

Good morning girls and boys! It's so nice to see you all today. I hope you had a great week. This morning our topic to talk about is the truth. You all know it's good to tell the truth all the time, right? In the Bible there's this time when Jesus was arrested and he was brought before the Roman Governor, a man named Pontius Pilate. He was sort of like a Judge. What ever he said was done.

So, Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King. Jesus answered him that he was born to testify to the truth. In other words, Jesus said he always told the truth. Pilate then asked Jesus what is truth... So, this morning I want to play a little game called What is Truth. Do you want to play?

Here's how the game goes. I'll tell you a fact and you guess if it's true or false. It sounds pretty east, but lets see how you all do...

1. My name is Mel Musser and I'm the Pastor here at Trinity. Great you all got that one...

2. My birthday is January 4th and I'm 25 years old. Yeah, you're right I'm a lot older than 25... You're all doing really great so far. Let's see how you do on this last one.

3. My first car was a 1971 Ford Mustang. It was blue.

None of you knew me back then, so you have no way to know if I'm telling the truth about my first car. I might be making it up just to make you all think I was really cool back then. The truth is my first car was an AMC Ambassador. It was the farthest thing from a sports car that you could get and I was probably the farthest away from being one of the cool kids as you could get too...

My point in playing this game is to show that we don't always know the truth when we hear it, but with Jesus we always know that he tells us the truth. When Jesus promises us that if we trust in him and his words we will have eternal life we know that is truth just because Jesus said it.

When Pontius Pilate asked What is Truth, I already know the answer. It's Jesus! Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the truth about who you are and for making us who we are. When we're confused about what is true, help us to know your words are always true and to rely only on you. When we are tempted to say something that isn't true, give us the courage to always tell the truth. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: John 18:28-40**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Gospel according to Saint John, the Eighteenth Chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

P: This is the Gospel 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, who is

The Truth, amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

There's an old saying: "A lie travels halfway around the world before the truth can put its pants on." The saying is attributed to Mark Twain. There's only one problem. The famous American humorist probably never said it. Twain scholars have scoured his writings and have never been able to find it. Yet, if you Google the quotation, the first thing that comes up is this quote attributed to Mark Twain. If you scroll down, you'll find out that it might have been said by Sir Winston Churchill. The truth is we have no idea who first coined the phrase. Ironical, isn't it? That the citation of who first said this quote about a lie traveling halfway around the world — is very likely a lie itself...

One of the most famous lines from any movie was the one delivered by Jack Nicholson's character Col Nathan R. Jessup in the movie A Few Good Men...

(**VIDEO**) Truth is frightening and sometimes we can't handle it... Pontius Pilate knew that, and washed his hands of truth when he washed his hands of Jesus.

Truth is demanding. It won't let us sit comfortably. It knocks out our cozy smugness and casual condemnation. It makes us move. The truth is sometimes hard. I noticed that even Jesus didn't have an answer when Pilate asked him "What is truth?" Pilate asked a really big question. Huge really... He could have asked: "What is the meaning of life?" or "Why am I here" or well, you have your big questions and I have mine...

I think the question posed for us today is do you belong to the truth? Or as Col Jessup might ask, “Can you handle the truth?” Jesus said, “I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Elsewhere Jesus said, “I Am the Truth and the life.” All of us here would certainly claim to belong to the truth, but do we really? I mean it takes more than listening to the words of Jesus to be a follower of Jesus. It takes more than coming to church on Sunday, saying a few prayers, singing a song or two, listening to a sermon, that better not be more than 12-15 minutes in duration, and then going about the rest of our week with hardly a thought of the one who died on a cross for our sin. I think I know what I’m talking about. I’m sorry if this makes you uncomfortable, but even before Covid hit we had to cancel our mid-week Lenten and Advent services because it just didn’t make sense to continue them with 3 or 4 people attending. How can we claim to belong to the truth when the rest of the week we act as if the truth belongs to us? Some Christians think they’re belonging to the truth because they scan the QR Code, transfer some money to the Church, but then Monday through Friday they’re rude to the waitress or waiter who is overworked and takes a few minutes too long to bring their food. Do you belong to the truth if you secretly watch pornographic images on your computer while claiming to be faithful to your spouse? People, even those who claim the name

Christian, who live according to one lifestyle on Sunday, but quite another the rest of the week, must believe the truth belongs to them rather than the other way around.

Are we willing to seriously study what exactly Jesus is calling is to be? He said those who belong to the truth listen to my voice. We're in the middle of the season of the Church year set aside for examining our lives and repenting of any sin. This is the time to make course corrections, to adjust our game plan.

Sometimes a satellite or spaceship slips out of orbit, and it needs a boost to return to the correct orbital pathway. Sometimes, wellness requires regular, if not frequent, checkups. So, you visit your health care professional. The doctor tells you that you need to modify your lifestyle. Maybe to quit smoking, or go on a diet to lose a few extra pounds or to eat more vegetables to get your cholesterol or your blood sugar under control. The same holds true for Christians. From time to time, we need to take our spiritual blood pressure, to get a soul check-up and make the changes that our Lord has commanded. Your doctor might make suggested changes to your lifestyle, but God makes commandments and our Lord Jesus lived out his life as an example for us to follow.

Let's not fool ourselves. We can stipulate that we know what the truth is.

The better question Pilate should have asked is not "What is Truth", but rather how

can I handle the truth?” How can we handle this truth sent from God? Jesus and all the prophets before him have laid out the case for exactly what our God expects of us. Read just about any book from the prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah. They all say the same thing. Take care of the orphans, the widow, those who are sick, and the unjustly imprisoned. In other words, take care of all the ones the world wants to leave behind. Many who call themselves Christians haven’t been inside a Church building except for weddings and funerals in years. Still more “Christians” only come on Christmas and Easter... How can they belong to the truth when they aren’t even regular members of His Church Family? How can they know what Jesus would do if they’re never present to hear him speak? I mourn for the ones who we’ve lost, but we all have a choice. That’s one of the ever-present themes throughout John’s Gospel. Jesus calls us to make a choice. Will you follow and belong to the truth or wallow in your sin thinking you own the truth? The choice is yours...

Even though Jesus didn’t give an answer to Pilate when he asked, “What is truth?”, as it turns out “What is truth?” is not an unanswerable question. Christ is the truth. Jesus didn't answer that question when Pilate asked it, because Pilate wasn't interested in the truth. “You can't handle the truth,” Jack Nicholson's character booms in *A Few Good Men* (1992). Jesus might have said the same

thing. But he answered it elsewhere when he said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6). And he answers it in what we experience when we receive him into our lives. Christ is the truth. All the lesser truths of what should be done in the complex situations of life can best be found not just by consulting the rules and the precedents, but also by listening for Christ's voice. We hear that best in those places where He promised us he would always be, where two or more are gathered together in His name. Have you ever noticed at every Worship Service we begin in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. That's quite on purpose because when we gather in His Name He is here with us and that's the truth!

The Law tells us, because of your sin you do not belong to the truth, but the Gospel says that is why Jesus came to earth. So that sinners, like all of us, might have a way out of our debauchery. Jesus came so we might have forgiveness and a new life. A life not bound up in the sins of our past, but created totally new and we even get a bonus called the Holy Spirit. The job of the Holy Spirit is to continually wash us clean from the sin we continue to commit. So that in the end, we do belong to the truth... This Lenten season we are all called to examine our lives, to make the necessary corrections, and to thank the Lord God for the truth that Jesus Christ is our Savior and the Savior of the whole world.

May you hear the voice of the master, Jesus and heed His message. May you never become a truth shape-shifter and live one way on Sunday and another the other days. May your walk with Jesus lead you to the truth that you are his beloved child and He will never leave you. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- * **NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: We all believe we know the way that things actually are, when really we have only a piece, one perspective on the bigger picture. Expand our minds and hearts to consider others' views, experiences, and life situations, that we may grow closer in love and understanding. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Injustice may be found wherever power is ill-gotten or abused. Shed light on scandalous abuses, unchecked greed, and horrific crimes against humanity. Heal the world and restore your suffering children. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We see the signs of light returning, even as we march onward towards Calvary and the sacrificial love of our Savior's gift to us. Teach us to find light in the dark places, and hold onto the hope you continue to offer us. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Sometimes we get it wrong, O Lord, and for this have mercy on us where we are truly repentant. Forgive our shortsightedness, pardon our weakness, and heal every infirmity which plagues us. Bestow your tender spirit upon all those in need of your healing, especially... God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: What joy to know that one need not be perfect to be counted among your saints, dear Lord. Consider us mercifully when you gather your children around your heavenly throne, clothed in light and crowned with salvation. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: When words fail, we trust you to hear the cries of our hearts, and we commend all those for whom we now pray to your loving care. In Jesus' name we pray.

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.

*** 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.... Holy Jesus, you gave everything of yourself to a broken and sinful world. You saw something in us that we sometimes cannot see in ourselves. But today we can see what we are capable of—today we give generously out of the abundance you have provided for us. Accept these gifts and the spirit with which we give them, gratitude and compassion. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the “tie that Binds us together”, 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.

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, majestic, and mighty, bless you this day and always.

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

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, April 3rd
John 19:1-16a

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 27, 2022

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ministers | All the People of Trinity |
| Organist | Roxanne Groff |
| Lector | Jennifer Arling |
| Acolyte | |
| Parrish Nurse | PJ Musser |
| Custodian | Mark Groff |
| Secretary | Sharon Fourman |
| Facebook Live Recorder | PJ Musser |
| Altar Flowers | <i>No flowers during Lent</i> |

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Count your steps- aim for 10,000

MIND: Try not to overreact

SPIRIT: Smile at everyone you meet this week



Envelopes are out in the narthex waiting to be filled by all of you with cash or a check. This money will go to help out Trinity member, Carolyn Blocher, with her very expensive dental work. Checks are to be written to Trinity Lutheran. Put money or check inside the envelope, then deposit in the collection plate or return to Tony Baker or Marge Warner. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Marge at 937-623-2544.

SPECIAL MUSIC, READINGS, ETC. needed for our worship services. A sign up sheet is on the table near the office or contact Marge Warner (937-623-2544).

EASTER BREAKFAST – A sign up sheet is on the table so we will be able to estimate how much food will be needed.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 27, 2022

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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.

This Week @ Trinity – March 27 thru April 3, 2022

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Sun, Mar. 13 | 10:30 am | Worship Service |
| Tues, Mar. 29 | 10:00 am | Prayers & Squares Quilting |
| Fri, Apr. 1 | 3:30 pm | FISH Choice Food Pantry |
| Sun, Apr. 3 | 10:30 am | Worship Service w/Holy Communion |

AROUND THE PARISH

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 Contact Info

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 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 |