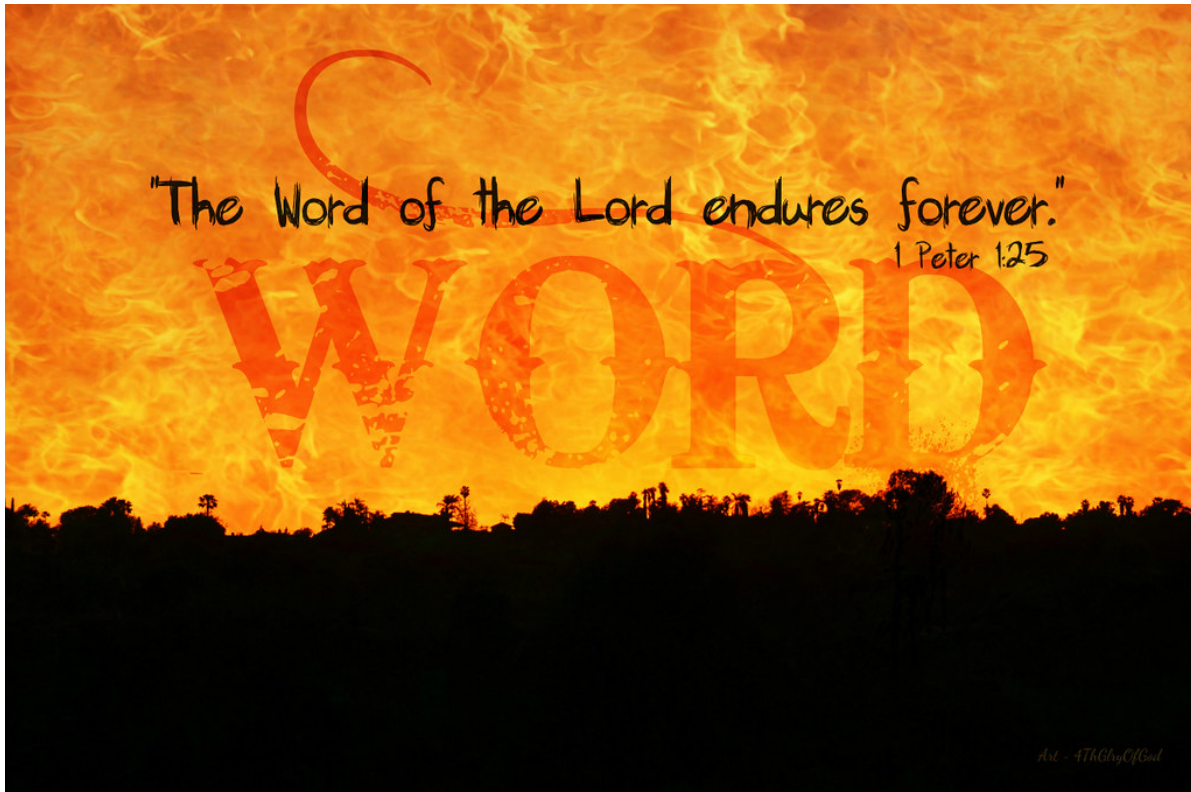


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA  
**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



1 Peter 1  
July 10, 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: Saving God,

**C: Too often we have turned away from you and toward ourselves. We have not had unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, or a humble mind. We have repaid evil for evil. We have failed to serve. Draw us back into the joy of your beloved community, and give us eager hearts to love our neighbors.**

P: God who redeems all flesh gives you new life in Christ and forgives you all your sins. Rejoice in the grace and mercy of God, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

**C: Amen.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ELW 773



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,  
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,  
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,  
 Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.  
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.  
 Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

\* 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... Merciful God, You have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. Sustain us in our difficulties that we might praise your holy name, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

## • CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Theme:** The Word of God Is Like Compass Leading us on the journey of life

**Materials:** A compass (or picture) and magnets

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 1

Good morning girls and boys! I'm sure glad to see you all this morning! I hope you had a wonderful week. In our Bible Lesson for today Peter, who was the leader of the original disciples of Jesus

Today let's talk a bit about science – about how a compass works. I've brought one along so you can see what a compass looks like and will have a better understanding of how it works. Can you see the needle that is kind of wobbly. The needle is balanced on a point in the middle of the case so it can swing around easily. This needle is actually a lightweight magnet.

You may have played with a magnet, or have them on your refrigerator door, and know that a magnet attracts certain kinds of metal to itself.

Our earth has a natural magnetic north pole (in the north of Canada). The needle of a compass will always point north. (You can see that one end of the needle is painted red and has the letter "N" printed on it.)

Hikers usually carry a compass to help them find their way out of the forest if they should become lost. Sailors also use a compass to guide them when they are far out to sea and cannot see land.

The Bible teaches us about a different kind of compass. We all have difficult things happen to us and we don't always know what to do. Perhaps we have to deal with people who are unkind or sometimes we make bad choices and create problems for ourselves. We turn this way and that way, looking for answers and for a way to solve our problems. Sometimes we feel as if we are lost.

When we believe in God our "faith and hope" (1:21) point us in the right direction. God is like our compass. Our faith in God will help us make the right choices. We could say that God, our compass, helps us find our way through life.

The Bible also teaches us that "the Lord's word endures forever" (1:25). God's love is a forever thing. No matter what happens to you or me in this life, we know Jesus is always with us to help us, to comfort us, and to guide us so we can live our lives making God happy, not because we have to, but because we love God so much we just want to obey Him and live our lives for Jesus.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for being our guide and our compass. Lead us not into temptation, but always to new life and new ways to share your love with others. Amen!

• **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 1 Peter, Chapter 1.

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

**1** I, Peter, am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah, writing to exiles scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten. <sup>2</sup> God the Father has his eye on each of you, and has determined by the work of the Spirit to keep you obedient through the sacrifice of Jesus. May everything good from God be yours!

<sup>3</sup> What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, <sup>4</sup> including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! <sup>5</sup> God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

<sup>6</sup> I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. <sup>7</sup> Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

<sup>8</sup> You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. <sup>9</sup> Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.

<sup>10</sup> The prophets who told us this was coming asked a lot of questions about this gift of life God was preparing. <sup>11</sup> The Messiah's Spirit let them in on some of it—that the Messiah would experience suffering, followed by glory. They clamored to know who and when. <sup>12</sup> All they were told was that they were serving you, you who by orders from heaven have now heard for yourselves—through the Holy Spirit—the Message of those prophecies fulfilled. Do you realize how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this!

<sup>13</sup> So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. <sup>14</sup> Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. <sup>15</sup> As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. <sup>16</sup> God said, "I am holy; you be holy."

<sup>17</sup> You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy

---

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

living.

Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. <sup>18</sup> It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. <sup>19</sup> He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. <sup>20</sup> And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. <sup>21</sup> It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. <sup>23</sup> Your new life is not like your old life. Your old birth came from mortal sperm; your new birth comes from God's living Word. Just think: a life conceived by God himself! <sup>24</sup> That's why the prophet said,

The old life is a grass life,  
its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers;  
Grass dries up, flowers droop,

<sup>25</sup> God's Word goes on and on forever.

This is the Word that conceived the new life in you.

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

### **• SERMON**

**Pr Mel Musser**

Grace to you from God our Father and from the one who gained salvation through His Righteousness and who offers His peace, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

As we begin our 5 week focus on the Book of First Peter, it's appropriate to start out with a bit of background on this book. Written in the year 64 AD, First Peter was most probably written by the Apostle and the unofficial leader of the Disciples personally selected by Jesus Himself. Peter is known for being impulsive, often speaking and acting before putting his brain in gear. For example, he was the first to recognize and say out loud that Jesus was the Messiah and the

---

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Son of the living God. Unfortunately, he had no clue, at that point, pre-crucifixion, what that actually meant. In the very next verse, when Jesus was trying to explain that being the Messiah, he would undergo suffering and death, but three days later would rise from the dead, Peter began to rebuke Jesus saying this would not happen on his watch. To that Jesus replied, “Get behind me Satan. Your mind is set on human things not heavenly things.” Peter is the one who got out of the boat and tried to walk on water, but took his eyes off Jesus and then began to sink. He cut off the ear of the slave of the High Priest when Jesus was arrested and Jesus had to restore the man’s ear while telling Peter and the rest of his followers that if they live by the sword, they will surely die by the sword. Finally, of course, Peter is the one who vehemently denied even knowing Jesus in the courtyard after Jesus was arrested, but then was forgiven and restored by the risen Christ by the Sea of Galilee with the threefold questions. “Do you love me, then feed my sheep.” After the events of the crucifixion and resurrection, Peter as well as the rest of the disciples were changed. Peter, whose name means “Rock” went from being like a rock that sinks to the bottom of the ocean, to the rock star preacher and leader of the new community founded on faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah and God’s only begotten Son.

That's a little background on what we know about the man, Peter, but what about this letter he wrote? Why did he write it and who should pay attention to it? In the year 64 AD Christians were considered odd and a bit weird. At first they were thought to be just one more sect within the Jewish Religion. By the year 64 they were being considered a separate religion and, with Nero as the Emperor of the Roman Empire, the writing was on the wall concerning their fate. Christians were beginning to feel the persecutions from at least three sides. They were being kicked out of the synagogues and ostracized from the places where they had been allowed to worship by the Jewish people. They were increasingly facing suffering and even torture and death because they dared to claim Jesus as their God and Lord rather than Nero. In the year 65 AD Nero most likely ordered a very populated section of Rome to be set on fire and he famously fiddled while Rome burned. He did this in order to blame the Christians and thereby have a good reason for the public to hate them and to persecute them and kill as many as possible. So, Christians were persecuted by the Jews, by the Roman Government, but what was the third group that persecuted them? It was their own families. When a person claimed Jesus Christ as their Lord, it not only put themselves in grave danger, but also their family members. Therefore, those family members who did not wish to



face that suffering and who did not share the same faith in Jesus, often betrayed their Christian brothers and sisters and turned them over to the Roman soldiers.

Peter saw what was happening and where this was headed. He wanted to warn his fellow Christians about the dangers and to encourage them to continue to keep the faith despite the suffering and danger he knew was ahead. The letter we call First Peter is a “Circular” letter meaning that it was carried from congregation to congregation probably along the main postal route because that’s where the roads were located. Peter was most likely located in Rome at the time of the writing of this letter. He had seen firsthand the suffering and persecution that was beginning to take place. This morning Kathy read from the Message Bible, which is a modern paraphrasing of the original Greek writings. In the NRSV, which we normally read from, rather than simply saying to the Exiles scattered to the four winds, the NRSV lists the actual places where this circular letter was addressed and was hand carried to. We don’t know who founded many of the Churches mentioned here, but it’s a safe bet that at least some of them may have been founded by Peter himself.

Now you know as much as I do about the context of this letter. Let’s look at the message it held for those early Christians and see if there’s something there for us as well. After the greeting and blessing, Peter gets right into theology. His

description and definition of Salvation still applies to us today. I just love the way Eugene Peterson, who wrote the Message version of the Bible puts it, “Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for,<sup>4</sup> including a future in heaven—and the future starts now!<sup>5</sup> God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole.” Yes, we have a future in Heaven with Jesus, but our future starts today! As wonderful as that sounds, we are still here in this world where suffering still affects all of us. We certainly don’t face the same three-sided attack from the government, the Jewish people, and our own families that those early Christians faced and we don’t risk being thrown in the arena with hungry wild animals just because we worship Jesus Christ, but there are still places in this modern world where Christians do face many of these same persecutions.

Our suffering today is mostly based on the trespasses of others and our own march toward the inevitable decline in health and eventual death. We grieve over our loved ones who have passed even as we ourselves can feel the slow decline of aging setting in on us. The message of salvation is the same whether you’re suffering is due to persecution or other life situations. The day is coming, says Peter, when you’ll have it all! In the meantime, how are we to live?

---

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

That's a good question and Peter is sure to give us his divinely inspired advice. First off we can see that we were chosen by God to be His elect, his holy people. We are saved by faith alone. Faith is a deep trust that you know is true even if you haven't seen the end, yet... You might be tempted to think that faith is the same as belief. Faith, trust, and belief in the Greek language are one and the same, but in English they are very different. Belief is an intellectual thing where you make up your own mind about something. Faith is something more. It requires something to have faith in. For example, faith in Jesus and the promises of God for our eternal salvation. Even the devil believes in Jesus. The difference is the devil doesn't have faith or trust in the promises of God or in the ability of Jesus to carry out all those wonderful promises. Because God acted to raise Jesus from the dead, God has demonstrated His power to fulfill His promise of Salvation. You've heard it said, through faith in Jesus, God is extending that same power over sin, death, and the devil to us giving us eternal life and salvation. I say that's not quite right. Through the faith and trust of Jesus we are now included in God's elect. It was Jesus' faith, Jesus' trust, and ultimately Jesus' righteousness that saves, not any faith or belief of our own.

Here's how I see this working out for us. Imagine you need surgery to replace a worn-out hip. You know there's going to be pain and suffering. The

doctor assures you that the period of pain and suffering will be limited and after a time you'll be better off than you are now. You go through the surgery and sure enough you do have great pain and as you go through the physical therapy there's a lot more pain and suffering... After that time though, you begin to feel better and because of the new hip you're able to move around much better and the pain you experienced was just part of your healing. Now you can keep up with your grandchildren and enjoy life complete and whole. Peter would say that's how we Christians should understand our minor persecutions and our major sufferings. They are no more than the healing pangs that refine our faith and strengthen our trust that God is with us in everything.

May God bless us even in our suffering and may we come out on the other side stronger and better because of our experiences with pain and suffering. May God bless us as we study this letter of First Peter and may we learn from the earliest Christians how to remain steadfast in faith and trust in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ all our days. 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.*

## \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Assured of God's promise to redeem all creation through Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: God of inspiration, your servant, Peter, wrote a word of hope to a fledgling church, who suffered the persecutions of all those around them. Give us the strength to live in the way of Jesus even when it puts us at odds with the world. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Christ's redemption is not reserved for human beings, but is for all that you have made. Help us to care for your beloved creation, honoring and protecting land, water, and sky. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Give all our leaders a spirit of service, and give them courage to do what is right in the face of opposition. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: All of us face trials in our daily lives. Look with compassion upon those whose trials threaten to overwhelm, (*especially*). Send them your healing, grace, and mercy. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Keep us ever mindful of those who still suffer persecutions for their

commitment to you. Spur us to action on their behalf, that all might have the freedom to worship you. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: We remember all the saints who have gone before us, all the way to Peter and the churches to whom he wrote. May we look on them as a source of strength and inspiration to us. Faithful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Holy God we place all for whom we pray into your loving care, trusting in the promise of your salvation.

**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](http://www.pitsburgtlc.org) you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Gracious God, we give you only what is already yours. Accept these gifts and bless them for your work in the world, that all my have hope and healing.

**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.**

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\* **SENDING BLESSING**

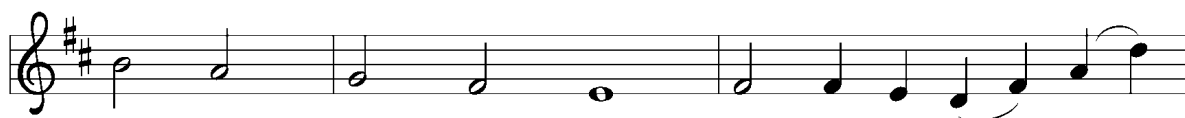
P: The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: **Amen.**

\* **SENDING HYMN      “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”      LBW 352**  
(Verses 1-4 Only)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

\* **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 © 2022 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

July 10, 2022

• Please be seated

Page 15 of 17

### Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

#### Health Tips for the Week

**BODY:** Be still. Take time to enjoy the moment.  
**MIND:** Be selfish, do something that makes you happy.  
**SOUL:** Ask for help.

### **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 – July 10 thru July 17, 2022**

<b>Sun, July 10</b>	10:30 am	Worship Service
<b>Thurs, July 14</b>	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
<b>Fri, July 15</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, July 17</b>	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Tuesday, July 19 and Thursday, July 21 – 6:00-8:15 pm.  
R.S.V.P. to Marge Warner at 937-623-2544.

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated



**Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship** – Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – Worship will be under the portico and the picnic will be in the fellowship hall! Please mark the date and plan to attend!

- *There is a sign-up sheet on the table for donations of food items needed for the picnic. (Meat, drinks, condiments, and ice cream will be provided.)*



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>  
1 Peter 2

**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:	<a href="mailto:pastor@pitsburgtlc.org">pastor@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@pitsburgtlc.org">secretary@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	<a href="http://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a>

---

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

July 10, 2022

Page 17 of 17