

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



Philippians 2:1-13
May 29, 2022



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



- **Prelude**

Darrell Fryman

- **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: Forgiving God,

C: We spend so much of our time doubting you, doubting ourselves, failing to place our trust in you. Our lack of faith causes us to stumble, and when we fall we fall far. Forgive us our sin and lift us so that we can rise to the challenge of carrying out your mission. In Jesus' name we pray.

L: God is merciful and just. God offers forgiveness for all who ask it. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins and walk with the power of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

LBW 370



1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the



God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.

* **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... Humble Lord, you emptied yourself so that others could be filled. Teach us humility and give us a spirit of service for the good of the community of faith.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Jesus Teachings Are Still Relevant Today

Materials: Pictures of Jesus Teaching

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13

Good morning girls and boys! I hope you had a great week! I'm really happy to see you this morning. Today I have some pictures of Jesus as he was teaching a crowd of people a long time ago while he was still alive and walking around in person on earth. This first one shows Jesus teaching a large crowd of adults. Jesus loved to teach people about God and about God's Kingdom. This next slide shows three pictures of Jesus teaching children. He did Children's messages just like I do during our Worship Service. Of course Jesus was a lot better than I am! Jesus was the ultimate teacher and story teller!

What do you think Jesus would be talking about to the children? (Let them come up with some ideas...) Maybe thinking of others first, before ourselves... How about loving our neighbors both near and those far away? Look at the clothes the people in these pictures are wearing. Are these the kind of clothes we wear today? No, of course not. Jesus lived a long time ago, about 2000 years ago. Do you think the things Jesus taught the adults and the children all the way back then are still important for us today? Well, if it was important to love our neighbors back then, it's still important for us today. What about forgiving others when they do something that hurts you? Jesus taught we should forgive people who do bad things to us. If that was important to Jesus, I believe it's still something Jesus would teach us to do if he was here with us today.

How can we do the things Jesus taught 2000 years ago today? What if I had a whole package of cookies. Should I eat them all right here in front of you or should I share what I have so that we all can taste the deliciousness? That's right we can all share what we have with others who have very little or nothing at all.

We can do all kinds of good things like that because God is still with us today. In our Bible lesson today, Saint Paul said God is not only with us, but that God is at work in each of us and both you and God can work together for God's good pleasure. I love it when people work to make God happy!

Maybe we should pray for a lot more of that in our world today! So, let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us to love one another and how to live our lives so that we can make God happy. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Book of Philippians the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

2If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

- **SERMON**

Pastor Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who unites us in His Gospel, Christ Jesus, Our Lord, amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one in whom we have unity of mind and spirit, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

In seminary I did my first in-depth research paper on this very text from Saint Paul's letter to the congregation he founded in the Macedonian city of

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Philippi. So, this passage is near and dear to my heart... It contains a beautiful song called the Christ Hymn, the origins of which scholars are still debating. Did Paul compose every word in this passage including the Christ Hymn or did he use the words of an ancient hymn that the Church had already incorporated into their worship services? Nobody knows for sure, and I don't think it really matters. The point Paul is making about humbling ourselves and thinking more about others than our own wants and desires that's what we should be hearing from Paul this day...

For some people humility would require a huge change in their mindset and lifestyle. As I thought about this text and tried to relearn the lesson from Saint Paul I kept coming back to this idea of change and what that means for us as Christians. Change is never easy. It almost always involves giving up something in favor of something else. Something must die in order for the new thing to emerge. As I thought about changes that have come about in my lifetime I remembered the first microwave oven we purchased back in 1979 or 80. It was huge and cost us over \$500. Of course, there were no cell phones available to ordinary people back then. In fact, in my house growing up we had something called a party line where several families shared a single phone line. Sometimes you'd pick up the receiver, which was attached to a cord or to the wall and

someone else would be talking on the phone. You had to wait until they were finished before you could make your call... The past 100 years have brought so many changes. I mean jets and rocket ships, landing men on the moon and now the beginning of commercial space travel. I wonder what changes the next 100 years might bring. Will humans have a colony on Mars? Will self-driving or better yet, flying cars, be the norm? Maybe we won't need smartphones any more because our brains will connect directly to the internet and we will finally achieve Paul's dream of being of one mind because all of us will be interconnected.

I don't have a crystal ball for looking into the future, but I think I can predict one thing with reasonable certainty. No matter how much we become interconnected through the internet, human nature will always continue to be sinful and evil by our very nature. Even with all the modern advancements we've made and how our society has progressed over the past we're still the same sinful, disobedient people God created and gave the gift of free will back in the beginning. We've had two horrendous mass shootings just in the past two weeks. One in a grocery store in Buffalo New York and another in the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde Texas. Even with all the modern conveniences and with the best information systems known to mankind, human nature is still what it has always been, sinful... I see absolutely nothing on the horizon that will change those facts.

As far as biblical and historical evidence shows us, human nature, with its “me-first” attitude, hasn't changed since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, and it seems unlikely to do so in the next 100 or 1000 years if humans survive that long...

This brings us to our text. In a hundred years we might expect the world to be different in many ways, with lots of stuff we'd think was really cool if we had it today, one thing is without a doubt going to be the same: We're going to have trouble putting the welfare of others ahead of our own. Paul talks to the Philippian Christians about at least eliminating rivalries: “... be of the same mind,” he writes, “having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. ...” In short, he calls them to live in ways that are appropriate to the gospel and that reflect the character of Jesus.

Why would Paul need to say that to Christians? Aren't Christians nice people at their core? It appears that even in the early church, just as in congregations today, people didn't see eye-to-eye on everything. Later in this letter to the Philippians, Paul specifically urges two women in that church -- Euodia and Syntyche – “to be of one mind in the Lord” (4:2), because, apparently, they weren't. We church people are real people with honest convictions on almost

every subject. In some cases, our convictions align; in others they don't. That's true even when we try to line up our opinions in light of what it means to follow Jesus. While we, as a congregation, may be trying to have the same mind as was in Christ Jesus, we, as individual Christians, differ about politics, social problems, lifestyle decisions, the Bible, worship styles and a host of other matters. And when these things get out of hand, churches and even denominations split. Sadly, we have no reason to think that 100 years from now it's going to be any different. Christians are not perfect people, but the one we worship and adore, Jesus Christ is perfect...

The society we live in is no different. After every mass shooting the political left wants more gun control and those on the political right want more emphasis on mental health and social reform. I read a Wall Street Journal editorial this week that said the real problem in our society today is the breakdown of religious and spiritual norms. Being a Christian 50 or 100 years ago was simply expected. Today not so much... People are flocking away from Churches like never before. When Jesus is eliminated from the lives of the masses it's no wonder our base human instincts are allowed to take over and we witness the carnage everywhere.

There is some good news here. Paul is also saying, with Christ as our common ground and with our shared desire to follow him, we who differ can still have a unity of spirit that makes us want to put others in our group first and look beyond our own interests. In fact, this unity of spirit is something that God bestows on us when we seek God together in the church. We should note that in calling members of the Philippian congregation to be of one mind, Paul is not implying that the folks there were not already sincere in their faith and in their living of their faith. Instead, he's calling for them to keep growing and maturing in that faith, to keep moving toward the example of Jesus. That's why we gather together as a community of faith, to both hold each other accountable, but to also encourage one another as we try to "regard others as better than ourselves." The Lord knows this doesn't come naturally to the vast majority of us! It did come naturally to Jesus. That was the whole point of the washing of the disciples feet on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week.

As I dream of a better future for humanity, I think about advances in medicine where body parts can be reproduced in a lab and where every home will have a robot maid like the Jetsons did in the cartoons of my youth. My prayer is that the human race will one day be able to put aside our own pride and self-absorption and think more highly of the other. May we learn from Jesus how to

empty ourselves and become a servant of all. Left on our own, I don't see that happening. Isn't it a good thing we're not left on our own! Through Jesus Christ we can learn from His example how to live our lives for Him and not just for ourselves alone. When we imitate the example of Jesus we can no longer think only of what we want and desire, but our focus is always on what God 's will might be for us. May we put aside all individual selfish desires and work toward the goal of unity in Christ. May the grace and mercy of God our creator and redeemer always encourage us to find our center in Him. Amen.

Before we move on in our worship to confess our faith, let's offer a moment of silence and then a short prayer in recognition and remembrance of those who gave their lives for our Nation... ... Let us pray... Prince of Peace, enfold our war-dead in Your arms; comfort those who mourn them; and help us, and all the nations of the world, live in peace. Amen... Our service now continues with the Nicene Creed...

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* 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: As Christ humbled himself, even though he was divine, so may we learn humility, O God, after our beloved teacher. Show us where we are blind to ourselves and ignorant of the harm we do to others, and make us a blessing rather than a burden to those we serve. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: At the name of Jesus, all creation stands in awe. As a child instinctively knows its parent, so does all of earth and heaven know its Creator. May we glorify our God in all we think, do, and say. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: All around us are the tangible signs of your love: a cool breeze, a whiff of fresh flowers, a breathtaking sunrise, the sweetness of the earth's fruits. Enliven us to

* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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all that you have created and make us joyful to be a part of your beautiful world. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Christ of suffering and pain, of resurrection and restoration, be close to those who need to know your healing presence, and give your particular blessing to those whom we name today... Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As your saints lived their lives to you, so give us a purpose to which we would dedicate our own lives. Hearten us by their steadfast example and join us in eternal communion when our race is completed. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: On this Memorial Day weekend we give thanks to you, O Lord for raising up faithful patriots who have defended our Nation. As we celebrate this Memorial Day Weekend, remind us how much our freedom and the peace we enjoy has cost. Let the memories of our fallen dead never be forgotten. Risen Lord,

C: Hear Our Prayer

P: Hear our prayers, make us humble like you, and zealous for your gospel. In the name of Jesus 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.... Lord Jesus, you gave everything—your time, your possessions, even your own life—so that we might have life. Receive these gifts we offer as expressions of our willingness to give of ourselves for the good of the community. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

*** 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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" LBW 328**
(Verses 1, 3, 6, & 7 only)



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
3 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

*** 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!

* Please stand if able

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* POSTLUDE

Darrell Fryman

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, June 5th
Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Dance around the house

MIND: Watch a documentary

SPIRIT: Watch the Chosen

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).

* Please stand if able

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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.

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.

This Week @ Trinity – May 29 thru June 5, 2022

Sun, May 29	10:30 am	Worship Service
Mon, May 30		
Tues, May 31	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, June 1	6:30 pm	WELCA Meeting
Fri, June 3	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, June 5	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

Trinity Contact Info

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