

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



Isaiah 9:1-7
November 21, 2021



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: Creator of all things,

C: We have failed to care for all that you have made. We have squandered resources and oppressed others. Forgive us for what we have done and have failed to do. Teach us how to be steward of your creation with care and nurture. Amen.

L: Our God will always love all that God has made. Although we sin, God forgives. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, granted as a gift from a loving God. In the name of Jesus we pray.

C: Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus Shall Reign”
Verses 1, 3, & 5 only

LBW 530



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

* APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... God of hope, You spoke a word of hope to Israel, refugees in search of a home. Renew in us your vision of your people restored.

C: **Amen.**

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: On Us a Light Has Shined

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

Items Needed: Acolyte Taper

Hey guys! It's great to see all of you. I'm so glad you came today. Do you know why? Today is a special day when we remember that Jesus is our King. Over 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah predicted that for God's people a child would be born who would be the light of the world and that he would bring light to all of us.

Do any of you know what this is? (Show them the Acolyte Taper) Yes, this is what the Acolyte uses to light the candles before Worship. It's called a Taper. Do you know why the Acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of the service? The candlelight represents Jesus, the light of the world. At the end of our worship service the acolyte puts out all the candles but before the last candle in extinguished the acolyte relights the taper and then leads all of us out into the world to share God's Word of grace and love.

Did you know we are to be the lights of the world today. That's the mission Jesus left for all of us who follow Him. We are all little lights to help brighten up this gloomy old world. Did you know that one of the best gifts you can give to someone who's feeling a little down is your great big smile. When you act like a light from God you will make this world a better place.

Let's take a minute and pray together... Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for this gift of Jesus, our king and our savior. Help us be lights that shine goodness in our world. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:1-7**

P: Our scripture reading is from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

QBut there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with

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joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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 light of the world our King of Kings, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

[Put on Sunglasses] It's Christ the King Sunday! I'm not wearing these cool sunglasses because it's so bright in here... But who knows, this could be a look that will catch on. *[remove sunglasses]* It seems odd to be wearing sunglasses inside on such a dark and gloomy day, but for an unsighted — blind — person, this accessory may soon make perfect sense. A special pair of shades that can deliver the gift of sight is now in development. It's called "Argus" — named after the mythological Greek god who had 100 eyes. **(Slide)** This innovative system can help blind people to see by providing them with an artificial retina. Here's how it works: **(Slide)** A small video camera is mounted on a pair of sunglasses. This camera is connected to a tiny electronic implant in the eye. The

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implant is connected to damaged photoreceptors on the patient's retina — photoreceptors known as rods and cones. Then the images from the camera pass through the implant and stimulate the photoreceptors, which transmit signals to the brain through the optic nerve. Voila! Suddenly, the people who walk in darkness are able to see a great light, and those who dwell in a land of darkness — on them the light shines! According to researchers, these artificial retinas have been successfully implanted in six patients, allowing them to see light and detect motion. These artificial retinas are an amazing innovation, but they don't do much for us when we're struggling with forms of darkness that have nothing to do with degenerated rods and cones. Maybe our personal darkness comes from depression, or disillusionment, or doubt. Perhaps it originates in discouraging work or a deteriorating relationship. Maybe it comes from having nothing to look forward to, no contribution to make, or no one to love. Maybe your personal darkness is caused by isolation from family and friends. To find some light in this type of darkness, it's going to take more than an Argus system to help us. We need the eyes of Jesus. **(Slide)**

The prophet Isaiah certainly knew the deep and disorienting darkness of despair when he wrote the passage of Scripture we just heard. His people had experienced the rod of oppression, the tramping of warriors and the tumult of

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battle, the humiliation of defeat. They knew the reality of depression and death. Darkness had settled on the land of Israel when, out of nowhere, there came this good news of great joy: “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests up on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace ...” (vv. 6-7). Isaiah wrote this about 500 years before that child was actually born. He wrote in the confidence of trusting the promise he had from God. Isaiah never got to live to see this newborn King, but he wrote as if Jesus had already been born. For us today, Jesus has already been born, lived his life for around 33 years, was crucified dies and rose again. This child given for you has completed the battle against sin death and the devil so completely just like Gideon did in the battle for Midian. The victory is so complete they no longer needed their warfighting uniforms. They rolled up the garments that had been soaked in blood and burned them in the fire. That’s how complete the victory Jesus won for us.

When that child was born in Bethlehem the world was introduced to a new way of seeing. Expectations were turned upside down by a prince being born in a barn, a Mighty God taking the form of a vulnerable baby. This birth marked the beginning of a new era in human history, one in which injustice, selfishness and

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violence were to be replaced by justice, righteousness and peace. But like all new forms of seeing, this innovation requires some adaptation. Maybe we're still making the adjustment of seeing with the eyes of Jesus today... I mean just look at the headlines, half the country looks at the recent verdict in the Kyle Rittenhouse case and applauds that the jury made a great judgment in spite of all the negative and false media attention and even threats against the jurors. The other half sees the same verdict as totally unjust, letting a racist, white supremacist run free. How are we to know the truth? In times like these we could all use a pair of Jesus eyes.

So, what does it mean to see the world through the eyes of our Savior, Christ the Lord? **(Slide)** Isaiah gives us a clue with the four names he attaches to the child who is put on the throne of David and given the kingdom of God. To have Jesus Eyes is to share the vision of a Wonderful Counselor. This means that we come to see the world with the perspective of the one who is our guide and our leader. When Jesus ushered in the Holy Spirit upon his disciples He gave us this Wonderful Counselor right inside our very own hearts. We're not forced to figure out everything for ourselves. Instead, we can follow the clear and compelling guidance of the one who knows the path to wholeness and everlasting salvation. Consider the fresh new perspective Jesus the Counselor gives us on the way we are to treat our enemies. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your

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neighbor and hate your enemy,” says Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:43-45). When we have Jesus Eyes, we aren’t looking to love only those people who love us... Everyone does that. Instead, we’re looking to love everyone — friends and enemies alike... Republicans, love those Democrats who disagree with you. Democrats, love those Republicans whom you disagree with.

To see with these lenses is also to perceive the activity of a Mighty God. Sure, this may be hard to visualize when Jesus first appears on the earth as a powerless child, but keep in mind that he grows into a man who goes so far as to conquer sin, death, and the devil on the cross for you. The real Jesus is one who would spare nothing to secure eternal life for you. Remember this when you are doing battle in your own life ... with a temptation ... with an obstacle ... with a setback ... with a rejection ... with a disappointment ... with the crushing grief of losing a loved one. You have a Mighty God riding in front of you, one who is ready, willing, and able to fight by your side as you make your way through all the fog and confusion of this world. This Mighty God became human to accomplish what mortal humans could never do, fulfill the Law, every jot and tittle. “Thanks

be to God,” says Paul to the Corinthians, for the one, “who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Looking with Jesus Eyes also gives us a clear vision of our Everlasting Father. God is not an absentee father, nor is he an abusive one as some have suggested. Instead, he is a close and caring, attentive Father who wants nothing more than to have a close relationship with you. Here’s where it is important to remember that Jesus and our heavenly Father are one God, so the face of Jesus is the same as the face of God the Father. Jesus is our Everlasting Father, and when we need an image of a close and caring and attentive parent, we can look directly at him.

Finally, the eyes of Jesus help us to see the world from the perspective of the Prince of Peace. The mission of Jesus is to bring peace, in God’s love to all people, and he challenges us to work toward the very same goal. So often we confuse the interests of our nation with the interests of Jesus, or we assume that our own sense of security is going to line up perfectly with the intentions of our Lord. When we look at life in this way, we might be in need of a vision correction. We might need to make sure that we have put on our Jesus Eyes. This child given to us brings us peace with God our Father. We need not fear the wrath of God

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because Jesus has come to bring us peace with God and to let us know just how much God loves you and me.

To see eye to eye with the Prince of Peace is to live “with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore” says Isaiah in verse 7. It means to embrace these virtues in our personal lives, in our community involvement, in the way we treat strangers, and in the way we practice our politics... If everyone lived by these values there would be no Kyle Rittenhouse trial because there would have been no rioting and no more hatred. It means that we see the world as a place that needs more peace, more justice, and more righteousness, and that our mission as Christians is to embody these goals in whatever way we can.

When you put on a new pair of glasses, you see the world in an entirely different light. May we all put on our Jesus eyes and show the world what God’s love can do! People of Darke County, we have walked in darkness for too long, let us shine the light of God’s love everywhere we go! Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

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* **NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

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 those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Isaiah's vision still sounds as far away to us as it must have for his listeners.

Forgive us when we despair, and plant within us renewed passion for the work of your Spirit. Zealous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all those around the world who walk in darkness daily—for victims of war, violence, abuse and abduction, displaced refugees, the unjustly imprisoned, and all who are tempted to despair, we pray, O Lord. Find a way to reach them with the light of hope, in whatever way, through whatever means possible, and use us as ambassadors for equality, freedom, and justice. Zealous God,

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C: Hear our prayer.

L: We give you thanks for all those who dedicate their lives in service to others, to the relief of suffering and the implementation of justice. Strengthen their witness, uphold them, and give them rest when needed. Zealous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Be with those who bear daily burdens, be it mental or physical illness, fear of homelessness or hunger, or other challenges which test their resilience. Surround them with your presence and guide them to the help they need. We especially lift up... Zealous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Whoever follows you, O Lord, will never walk in darkness. Shine your eternal light upon all your faithful servants, still living or alive in your resurrection, and surround them evermore with your blessing. Zealous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Into your gracious hands we place all our prayers, on behalf of a world seeking your grace. Through Jesus Christ 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. We offer these gifts in response to the word of hope you continue to speak. Allow us to hear your word that inspires us to give of ourselves for the sake of your beloved children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

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* **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 beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,
 ✝ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen.

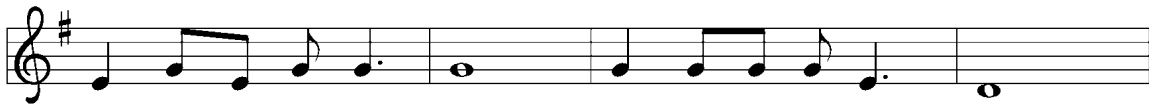
* **SENDING HYMN**

“This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - ’ry - where I go, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I’m goin’ - a let it shine;
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let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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* **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, November 28th
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Eat a variety of fruits
MIND: Visit a library
SPIRIT: Let go of past hurts

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

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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 – November 21 thru November 28, 2021

Sun, November 21	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Annual Congregational Meeting
Tue, November 23	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, November 24	7 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Thurs, November 25	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	
Fri, November 26	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, November 28	10:30 am	Worship Service – Reformation Day

Trinity Contact Info

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