

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



## Revelation 6 & 7 August 22, 2021



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: Eternal Lord,

**C: We live in a world of anguish, and our sin only multiplies our suffering. Our despair discourages others. Our hopelessness paralyzes us from carrying out your work in the world. We pray for mercy, for strength, and for our faith to be restored, knowing that all good things come from you. Amen.**

L: God will indeed make all things new. Our Creator knows, hears, and answers the cries of our hearts. Despair no more, for the One who comes in power also comes in love, and death has no dominion in the world to come. Receive our Lord's promise of pardon, renewal, and peace that knows no end.

**C: Amen.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**“Blessed Assurance”**

**ELW 638**



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

\* **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... Almighty God, Your strength far outstrips any earthly power. May we put our fears aside and our trust in you, in whom our hopes will not be disappointed. In Jesus' name we pray,

**C:** Amen.

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Theme:** Jesus Loves All the Children of the World

**Scripture:** Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

**Items Needed:** Song Lyrics for Jesus Loves All the Children

Teach the children the song “Jesus loves the little children...

Jesus loves all the little children,

All the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white,

They're all precious in his sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus loves all the children of the world because they're all going to be part of his heavenly kingdom. The book of Revelation says, “There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands (v. 9).

Do you think everyone in heaven will be just like you or me? Do you think we will all speak the same languages in heaven? I don't think so... At least that's what the Bible tells us. There's going to be people in heaven from every tribe and every country. That means there will be all colors of people and all the different languages on earth will be there.

Jesus loves all the children of the world, then we should, too, even if we aren't used to the way they look and sound. Everything we do in this life is supposed to get us ready for life in God's heavenly kingdom. So we want to make friends today with the children we are going to see there someday. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone on earth just thought of ourselves as one big flock, all following our savior and our Lord, Jesus Christ? The Bible promises Jesus will be our shepherd, and he will guide us to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Have you ever cried before? In heaven there will be no more need for tears and God will dry up the tears you have already cried...

I think that sounds like a great place. It reminds me of another song I learned a long time ago. It goes like this...

Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace, heaven is a wonderful place, I want to go there...

Let's pray... God of glory and grace, we worship you and we love you. Thank you for the promise of such a wonderful place as heaven. Amen.

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\* Please stand if able

● Please be seated

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 6:1-8 & 7:9-17**

P: Our scripture reading is from the Book of Revelation, Chapters 6 & 7.

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

**6** Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures call out, as with a voice of thunder, “Come!” <sup>2</sup>I looked, and there was a white horse! Its rider had a bow; a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering and to conquer. <sup>3</sup>When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, “Come!” <sup>4</sup>And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another; and he was given a great sword. <sup>5</sup>When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, “Come!” I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand, <sup>6</sup>and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a day’s pay, and three quarts of barley for a day’s pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!” <sup>7</sup>When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature call out, “Come!” <sup>8</sup>I looked and there was a pale green horse! Its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the wild animals of the earth.

**7** <sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. <sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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\* Please stand if able

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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 is worthy of our honor and praise, Jesus Christ our Lamb and our Lord, amen.

Finally, we're getting to the good part of The Revelation of Jesus Christ! What I mean by the good part is the scary part. Tribulation has begun! For the first five Chapters we've been dealing with letters admonishing the Church to be a better Church... This is followed by two fantastic scenes of heavenly worship. Finally, we're getting to see some action. The one who is worthy, who has both the power and the legal right to open the sealed scroll has had enough. The slaughtered Lamb takes the scroll from the one seated on the throne and begins to unleash God's judgment. Jesus opens the seals one at a time so that John and by extension all of us can see what happens next. The first four seals unleash what we call the four horsemen of the apocalypse. They stand for human conquest, violence, natural and economic disasters, and finally death itself. We Christians have tried for a couple of millennia now to affix a timeline to the four horses and the rest of the tribulation released by opening the scroll. The truth about what John of Patmos was trying to convey is that these are the trials and tribulations Christians had been facing and continue to face since Christianity began.

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\* Please stand if able

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Let's review... We all remember reading about the first Martyr, Stephen. His crime deserving of death was proclaiming Jesus as his Lord and not Caesar. The history of Christian martyrs doesn't end with Stephen's death. James, the brother of John and a member of the inner circle of Jesus' closest disciples was executed by the sword, ordered by the emperor. Peter was crucified in the city of Rome upside down on a hill we call the Vatican... Paul was beheaded on a hill outside of Rome because he was a Roman citizen and Roman law prohibited execution of its citizens within the city limits. During the first century after Jesus' death nearly all of his disciples suffered martyrdom for His sake. Matthew was killed with a halberd, an ax-like weapon, in 60 A.D. James, who is thought to be the brother of Jesus, was beaten to death, Matthias was beheaded, Andrew was crucified, Mark was torn to pieces... Other early apostles Luke, Barnabas, Timothy, and Simon were also killed for the sake of Christ. The history of Christian martyrs does not end with the death of the disciples or those recorded in the Bible. Thousands willingly gave their lives under Roman persecution by the emperors Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Maximus, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian. The Roman persecution lasted well into the fourth century A.D. and didn't end until Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of his empire. Unfortunately, the history of Christian martyrs

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didn't end with Constantine. Throughout the following centuries and up until present time, Christians have, and continue to, suffer martyrdom. This persecution has come by means of other Christians, other faiths, and political powers. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned and shot in 1945. Rachel Scott, a devout Christian teen, active in her youth group at Orchard Road Christian Church, was the first student killed in the Columbine High School Massacre, April 20th 1999.

Another new and probably unfamiliar name, Pastor Bae Hyung-Kyu. Pastor Bae led a medical team from South Korea to Afghanistan. The plan was to alleviate physical and spiritual suffering, but the Taliban terrorists had another agenda. In 2007 radical Islamic insurgents kidnapped the team of 27 souls. The Taliban tried to convert the Christian hostages, but Pastor Bae refused. He was shot ten times, in the head, chest and stomach. Another hostage was also murdered. The others were released after a 20-million-dollar ransom was paid.

Today we have untold numbers of American citizens and our allies behind enemy lines in Afghanistan. Who knows what their fate will be? Even as we pray for their safe return, they are facing another choice. If they continue to exercise their faith the Taliban will attempt to force their conversion at the point of a sword, gun, or bomb. What would you do under those circumstances? Would you deny Jesus to save your earthly life? What I do know is that if they perish with their

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faith intact, they too will be counted among the martyrs at the altar of God and will be honored with a shiny white robe and a special place in the heart of God. All of this is attributed to the first horseman and is caused by human desire for conquest.

What about the other horsemen of the apocalypse? John's vision of the red rider taking away our peace seems to be unfolding right before our eyes. We're more divided as a nation than I've seen since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Take a look at all the violence in the streets of our cities. Lest you think this is something new, let me assure you this kind of division and violence has been going on since the fall of humans into sin. In the last century we fought in not one, but two World Wars. Before that our own Civil War and before that the War of 1812 and our Revolutionary War. I remember when I had to take history classes in school, I thought they only taught history from one war to the next... In John's time and before there was no difference. Only our war making machine has gotten more advanced and sophisticated. Once again, John's vision perfectly describes the human condition when it comes to war and peace...

The third horseman brings about economic woes. Back in John's time all people had to confess their allegiance to the emperor. Those who did were given a mark and allowed full access to the markets of the day. Tradesmen couldn't work if they didn't have the Caesar approved mark. I don't know what form that mark

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was. It might have been a piece of pottery with an official seal or signature. Those who refused to take the oath to the emperor couldn't buy or sell their goods or services. The early Christians certainly experienced economic woes like we've never known. Many starved to death because they refused to take Caesar as their lord over Jesus Christ. Today, we're debating requiring a vaccine passport in order to gain access to the good things our society has to offer. Those who refuse to take the vaccine may face that same kind of oppression and persecution. Yes, I believe John hit the nail on the head with the opening of this seal.

Finally, we come to death itself as the fourth horseman. Death is and has been inevitable since the serpent introduced sin into the world. Only a great and mighty savior could overcome this plague on humankind. The good news is that we have such a savior, and he looks a lot like a lamb that has been slaughtered. His name is Jesus Christ, and he now reigns with God and has been given all authority over the entire creation.

The disasters described as the seals of the scroll are opened were not intended to strike fear into our hearts over what is to come, but to strike fear into our hearts over what is happening at the current time. They were meant to describe the current state of affairs in the world at the time John wrote them, but they all continue to plague us in some form or another still today and will continue until the

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day of salvation when Jesus returns in glory. If all you read are the accounts of devastation caused when the seals are broken who wouldn't be terrified?

Thankfully we all know the rest of the story as Paul Harvey used to say. We know these descriptions of empire building, natural and manmade disasters, famines and economic woes, violence, and death are not the end of our story. The promises of our God are still faithful and true. Those who have already reached heaven's shores know this firsthand. Even after the four horsemen of the Apocalypse are released upon the world, those uncountable multitudes in heaven bow down in worship to the one on the throne and to the Lamb. They do so because they know firsthand God is gracious and merciful. There is a time when tears will be shed now, but on that great day of salvation God will wipe away those tears forever. That's some pretty good news for those who are suffering in this present age.

I pray that none of you would ever have to face the kind of persecution the martyrs of old faced, or for that matter the kind of persecution and oppression of Christian siblings are facing right now in anti-Christian hot spots around the world. I pray none of you will ever go through the economic woes, or face a natural disaster. I know we will all face the fourth rider at some point. When we come face to face with that pale green horse, look to Jesus and to the Lamb who suffered for you and won the final victory for you so you could take your place and be

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counted among those robed in white and taking your special place in the heart of God. May our God give us the courage to stand until we are called to join the rest of the witnesses to our Savior Jesus Christ and along with Peter, and James, Stephen, and all the rest who now worship God in heaven forever and ever. Amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- \* **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

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➤ *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: Lord, there will come a day when suffering of any kind is no more. Hold your vision and promise before our eyes, that our hearts might be cheered in the sure knowledge of your deliverance. Triumphant God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: When disaster strikes we are tempted to panic, judge, or despair. Help us to see the world through your eyes, to sow seeds of healing and reparation wherever it is in our power to do so, and to share the good news of your victorious love with everyone. Triumphant God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

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\* Please stand if able

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L: As summer draws to a close, let us not forget the rest and renewal we enjoy in you. May we seek you often and find refreshment from our tasks, even as we also find satisfaction in the work that you have laid before us. Triumphant God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: You guide us to springs of water and wipe away the tears from our eyes. Bring healing, an end to suffering, and a wellspring of hope to all who cry out to you, especially... Triumphant God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Blessed be the saints who have washed their robes clean in the blood of the Lamb. Encourage us with their faithful example, and bring us with them into your eternal embrace. Triumphant God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other petitions may be offered.*

L: Hear the fervent prayers of our hearts, and may blessing and wisdom and honor and might be yours now and forever.

**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. We put our faith in your wisdom, O Lord, that you see and know all that we do not understand. We bring our offerings as a sign of our trust that you will bless our efforts and multiply them on behalf of the disadvantaged and despairing. Our hope lies always in your goodness and all-powerful love.

**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.**

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\* **SENDING HYMN**      **"Shall We Gather at the River"**      **ELW 423**



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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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**

**Darrell Fryman**

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>  
Revelation 13:1-18

**Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** Try and get 8 hours of sleep

**MIND:** Organize your Photos

**SPIRIT:** Keep a list of answered prayers

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

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

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\* 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.

### **This Week @ Trinity – August 22 thru August 29, 2021**

- Sun, August 22** 10:30 am Worship Service
- Tues, August 24** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Thurs, August 26** Lutheran Day at the Fair
- Fri, August 27** 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
- Sun, August 29** **RALLY DAY!**  
10:30 am Worship Service

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Lutheran Day at the GREAT Darke County Fair:** Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day. Please let Pr Mel know if you can help serve at the Spirituality Building either from 12 noon to 1:00 pm or from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

**Rally Day at Trinity:** Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Hot dogs & ice cream after worship.

**Trinity Fall Festival:** October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 pm

### **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

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated