

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



1 Peter 5
August 7, 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 “Now Thank We All Our God”**

LBW 533

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

* **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.

* **KYRIE**

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of all grace... You call us to your eternal glory in Christ.

Restore us, support us, and strengthen us, so that we might bear witness to your salvation, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: Keeping the Devil Away

Object: Picture of a roaring lion

Scripture: 1 Peter 5

Good morning girls and boys! I hope you had a great week. I'm so happy you're here today. Today I'm going to talk about lions. Have any of you ever seen a lion up close? I don't mean at a zoo where they're on the other side of a fence or a thick window. I mean where you were right up close next to them where they could reach out and grab you with their sharp claws and eat you up... I hope you never get than close to a real hungry lion...

In our Bible story for today the Apostle Peter, he was one of Jesus' closest friends was writing to several of the churches of his day. Peter wanted to give those Christians some advice for staying away from Satan or the Devil. In his letter he compared the Devil to a lion that never sleeps and is always looking to devour Christians by tempting them to go against God and against the Word of God.

You can learn how to keep the roaring lion or the Devil far away by doing exactly what you are doing today. Come to hear God's Word at Church. You learn about God's love and forgiveness and how Jesus defeated that mean ol' lion, the Devil once and for all when he was crucified, died, and then on that first great Easter morning was resurrected back to life. The Devil thought he had defeated God by claiming Jesus, God's only begotten Son in death. God had the last word though, when God brought Jesus back to life and then all the way up to heaven and sat Jesus at God's right hand.

Jesus did all of that so you and me could be with God forever. We don't have to listen to the Devil and all his empty promises because Jesus loved us so much He was willing to do whatever it took to keep us safe from that mean ol' Devil.

So, please stay away from real lions. Don't ever try to climb into their cages. Even though the Devil has been defeated by Jesus, he still tries to attack you and me. He uses our fears and our worries against us. Peter tells us we can give all those worries and fears to God because God loves us and will always care for us.

That's some really good news for us, isn't it?

Let's pray... Dear God, Help us to stay out of the Devil's sight. When we're tempted to go our own way and leave God out of our plans, bring us back into your safety and protect us from that mean ol' prowling lion, the Devil. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 5**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 1 Peter, Chapter 5.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

5 Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ²to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

⁵In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. ¹²Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

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

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the great Lion Tamer,

Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Have you ever had a song get stuck in your head and couldn't stop singing it? This week after studying this final chapter of First Peter I couldn't get rid of the song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (SLIDE) You remember... "In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight. In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight..." While it's true most lions sleep from time to time, in our sermon text the Apostle Peter speaks of a lion that never snoozes. He says this lion has been devouring unsuspecting prey from the beginning of time and remains on the prowl. That lion of course is the Devil, and his aim is to take as many of us to h-e-double hockey sticks with him as he can. If Peter had written that popular song his opening lyrics might have gone something like this. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion prowls tonight." Since the Devil is out to get us, it would be good to know what makes us lion alert and not lion dessert. The Apostle Peter will show us there are three things that keep us lion alert: humility, self-control, and grace.

(SLIDE)

Peter begins his lion taming advice in verse 6 of our text. There he tells us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. How does humbling yourself before God make you lion alert? Doesn't it just mean that you have to give up "fun" things and do what God wants you to do? I imagine that's what most people think and they're partially right. God is telling

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

us to give up something. In the very next verse Peter said, “Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.” To humble yourself before God means to surrender all your cares and concerns to him. That makes us lion alert because the Devil likes to use our cares and concerns to get us to second-guess and doubt God. Peter is concerned about the people’s anxiety because excessive worrying can cause us to miss out on the real things we should be avoiding. Here’s what I mean. Take the familiar story of Mary and Martha. As Mary sat at Jesus’ feet, Martha fussed about the kitchen worrying about whether or not there would be enough food to eat. Her cares and concerns so diverted her attention from the one thing we all need to do more, listening to Jesus. The Devil continues to plant seeds of doubt, leading to worry, ending in anxiety that paralyzes us from action. What worries and anxieties are distracting you from hearing Jesus? Satan will stop at nothing to get us to rely on ourselves instead of God so that we end up worrying and breaking the first commandment. Don’t become lion dessert! Instead, remain alert by humbling yourself under God’s mighty hand. I’ve come to know there’s no better place to take your concerns than to God. God loves you and has promised to care for you. Sometimes when I think I know something I have to be reminded I don’t know it at all... That happened to me with this chapter from Peter. I assumed when Peter says we should “cast” all our anxiety on God that it

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was the Greek verb “*ekballa*” which is the usual word for toss or throw. When I looked at the Greek this week I found an interesting Greek word that we have translated as “cast.” It’s the verb *Ταπεινώ-θητε*. This is interesting because it has nothing to do with tossing or throwing. It literally means to humble yourself to put yourself under or at a lower esteem. Many times in my life I’ve given over my cares and troubles to God, but I never realized what I was doing was humbling myself under Gods loving care. When we turn over our anxieties to God we’re saying I can’t handle this, but you can O God. I give up my pride and ask you to take over my worries and my fears. God will take care of our problems better than we ever could so what’s the use worrying about them if we’ve handed them over to God? We are free to now be alert for that prowling lion who wants us for lunch...

That sounds so easy to do but you all know what often happens? We carefully pack our concerns into a bag and give them to God, but we don’t let go of the pack. We think that if we don’t at least keep an eye on our problems they will never get solved. Instead of letting God carry our problems and lead where we should go, we try to lead God instead and end up treating God like a dumb pack animal. Friends, that’s not the way to remain lion alert. Let the Lord bear your burdens and when you do, God will lead you to still waters and green pastures!

As we humble ourselves and rely on God it is important we don't become lulled into a false sense of security thinking the danger of attack has passed. The Devil won't give up so easily so Peter tells us how to stay alert and not become Devil dessert... He says be self-controlled because the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. We can resist him by standing firm in the faith. To be "self-controlled" means to have a clear head. We remain lion alert when we remove anything that hampers good judgment. For example, if our mind is cluttered with lustful thoughts we won't be prepared to flee from temptation as Joseph did when Potiphar's wife asked him to sleep with her. If our mind is muddled with materialism it will be hard to offer our first fruits to God. If our mind is packed with pride it will be hard to keep from putting other people down so we look good. To name just a few... We also exercise self-control when we don't leave our weaknesses exposed to the Devil's temptations. It was Luther who said the Devil climbs over the fence where it is the lowest. If alcohol is a weakness don't go to bars or be with people who are always drinking. If gossiping is a weakness stop hanging out with those friends who are quick to spread the latest rumors or at least let them you don't want to talk about the latest gossip. If you continue to let yourself be influenced by these temptations you only put yourself in the lion's den and it'll only be a matter of time before you are devoured.

Humbling ourselves and exercising Self-Control helps us shore up our weaknesses and to stand firm in the faith. Only then can we be sure we stand safely outside the lion's den. How does that one verse of A Mighty Fortress go? "Though hordes of devils fill the land, all threat'ning to devour us. We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him." Jesus proved God's Word could topple the Devil when He was tempted out in the wilderness. We can arm ourselves with the same powerful weapon of God's Word. It's more than just memorizing Bible verses so you can make quick use of it like a gunslinger when Satan makes his attacks. We believe the Word of God is first and foremost Jesus Christ our Lord. He's the one who binds up the devil and all the little devils in this world.

Which brings us to God's Grace... While humility and self-control will prepare us against attacks by the Devil it's only God's grace that will bring us through these attacks. We need God's grace because we often forget and fall back into the I've got this mode of thinking... Although we know we should stay out of the lion's cage, time and again we put ourselves in harm's way. Thank God he is a God of undeserved love who picks us up when we fall. Listen to the promise Peter extends to us. "And the God of grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,

after you have suffered a little while will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

When you fall, turn to Jesus for forgiveness because he has defeated the Devil by refusing to fall for any of his tricks and he undid the Devil’s handiwork by taking the punishment we deserved. Since the Devil could not defeat Jesus he has gone to plan “B” - attacking us, the crown of God’s creation. Luther said where God builds a cathedral there Satan builds a chapel. Be ready for those attacks, as the Devil doesn’t want you to believe Jesus won forgiveness for you. He’ll bring up past sins and shake them in your face asking how a just God could love anyone so filthy... The answer is that one word that can topple Satan, Jesus. Through Christ the victory is ours. Through Christ, God will restore us to the glory God intended people to have before sin entered the world. Through Christ God has made us strong so we can carry out works that please God. Yes, how could God love us? God loves us because of Jesus. If we remain in Christ then the lion’s roar will sound more like an annoying yelp from a little dog.

It’s true that “In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion prowls tonight...” so stay alert lest you become lion desert. (SLIDE) Don’t be afraid because after all it’s God’s jungle and Jesus is the King of the Jungle! As you walk through this life, humble yourself under God’s mighty hand by giving up your ownership of

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your problems and your sin. Go ahead, you can trust God is still in control no matter what quicksand you run into. Remain watchful standing firm in the faith, armed with the Word of God. And the God of grace who has called us to eternal glory will keep you safe. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLE'S 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 young and old, no matter our age give us open hearts to heed the wisdom of those before us and nurture the faith of those behind us. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Inspire all of us by the passionate action of the world's youth to learn how to restore and preserve the natural world, that all might enjoy your astonishing creation for generations to come. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Leaders are to be found among every age group. Inspire, strengthen, and sustain all leaders, and make us willing to listen and learn from those with more experienced than we are in this life. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Illness, adversity, and tragedy may strike any of us at any time. Embrace all who suffer, from the littlest child to the eldest adult, in your healing arms, (*especially*). Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember all who have died in the faith at any age, and know that they are in your tender care. Keep us mindful of their example until we are reunited with them in glory. 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.

*** 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.... Shepherding God, you provide us, your flock, with all that we require. Accept now these gifts we return to you in gratitude, and bless them to good use in your name.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*** DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*** THE PREFACE**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** THE SANCTUS**

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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.

* Please stand if able

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*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Young or old, we are all yet little children, fed and nurtured by our heavenly Mother/Father. Come to this holy table, set for you, and eat together in love.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of The Body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever,

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: 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 “Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” LBW 559**



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
 5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
 sings mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
 by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

* **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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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Rob Arling
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel & PJ Musser in celebration of Melanie's birthday.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Take a relaxing bath

MIND: Learn about your family's history

SPIRIT: Spend some quiet time at church



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 7 thru August 14, 2022

Sun, August 7 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Thurs, August 11 10:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, August 12 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, August 14 10:30 am Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 14th
Ruth 1



DON'T FORGET! The WELCA Silent Auction runs through the end of August 2023. Check out the items available each month and enter your bid!

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.

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