

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



Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
September 11, 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: God of promise,

C: You have given us all we are and all we have, and still we have not trusted you fully. We have tried to be god in our own lives, hurting ourselves and those around us in our attempts to control. Wash us clean in the waters of your salvation, and bring us back into right relationship with you.

P: God welcomes you home with open arms, and forgives you all your sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, live in the promise of God's love, freely given.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE "O Master, Let Me Walk with You" LBW 492**



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

* Please stand if able

September 11, 2022

• Please be seated

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* **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... Saving God, you promised Noah you would never again destroy the world by flood. Remind us daily of your intense love for your whole creation, and help us to love as you love.

C: **Amen.**

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: God Keeps His Promises

Materials: Wedding Ring, Skittles, a Plate, Warm Water

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

This is a ring. (Show the ring.) Some rings remind us of an important promise. Do any of your parents have wedding rings? (Pause.)

Wedding rings are very special rings. On the day of their wedding, the people getting married promised to love each other forever. And the ring reminds them of that promise.

People make promises on their wedding days, and at other times, too. We all make promises, like when we promise our parents we'll clean up our toys after we play. Promises are important, but sometimes we don't keep them.

But God--He always keeps his promises. Our Bible lesson today is about a promise God made to a man named Noah. You might know about Noah's ark. (Allow children to share anything they know about Noah. Then tell the basic story or fill in any gaps about how God sent the flood because the people had begun to make lots of bad choices. The flood filled the earth and destroyed everything and everyone except Noah's family and two of every kind of bird and animal.)

After the flood waters went down, God made a promise to Noah. He promised Noah that He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. Then He put a rainbow in the sky and said to Noah, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the promise between Me and all life on the earth." God said the rainbow would remind us of the promise that He made.

Let's see a little rainbow science experiment now. (Place the Skittles around the edge of the plate, alternating colors. Pour warm water in the center of the plate. As the water spreads to the edge of the plate watch the rainbow appear.)

God's rainbow was in the sky and a reminder that He always keeps His promises. The Bible says that, "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20). The next time you see a rainbow,

remember the promise God made to Noah, and remember that just as God has kept that promise, He keeps all of His promises to you, too.

Dear God, we're thankful that You keep Your promises. Help us to keep our promises, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17**

P: The Scripture includes readings from the book of Genesis, Chapters 6, 8, and 9.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.

⁶And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

⁸But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. ⁹These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹²And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth.

¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them."

²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the new covenant of God made flesh, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

The story of the great flood is a favorite among Sunday School teachers and children alike. It's a story of renewal and starting over. For many people it reminds them of the waters of Baptism, but for me, it reminds me of how I play

* Please stand if able

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golf. I love the feature of the game of golf where you get to pretend that last shot that went straight into the pond didn't really happen.



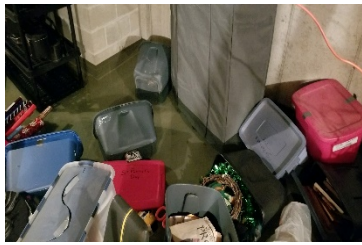
(SLIDE) In golf it's called a Mulligan. The term "Mulligan" may have originated back in the 1930's with John A. "Buddy" Mulligan, who was a locker room attendant at Essex Fells Country Club in New Jersey. One day Mulligan was persuaded by a few players to join their game. Having been busy working all morning, Mulligan was not properly warmed up, and he paid the price with a poor opening tee shot. As legend has it, he turned to his playing partners and told them they got to practice all morning while he was working, so the least they could do is give him a do-over. They agreed, and word spread of the "mulligan" so quickly that other members adopted it for their games. That might be where the golf "mulligan" started but in the waters of the flood God gave creation a huge do over. In that sense the flood is sort of like a Baptism for the whole earth. In the waters of your Baptism, you were also given, not just a single mulligan, but as many do overs as you need to get you back on the path of righteousness and favor with God and with your neighbor.



Most of the time the flood is portrayed in pictures like this... (SLIDE) I mean look how happy Noah seems and how all the pairs of animals are all smiling and getting

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along... As I studied this story about God's mulligan it occurred to me just how grewsome a tale this is. We're not talking about flooding that happened in my



basement a few years ago

(SLIDE)



or a few farm fields being under water (SLIDE) and unable to be planted. We're talking about the entire face of the earth covered with water taller than the highest mountain tops.



(SLIDE) That's a lot of water, folks!

I wondered what made Noah so special that God was willing to reveal the plan to him and to spare his entire family.

What made Noah exceptional in the eyes of God?



(SLIDE) Was it his winsome personality or his good looks? Was it his work ethic? Did Noah say the right prayers, or did he do enough good works that God took

notice of him and made him and his family the exception? It doesn't really say for certain in the book of Genesis what it was about Noah that caught God's eye...

The only thing I could find was that Noah was righteous before God. Genesis chapter 6, verse nine says, "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his

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generation; Noah walked with God.” I’m not sure this description helps us much to determine the qualities Noah possessed that brought him such favor with God. So, I decided to search the rest of the Bible for anything related to Noah. Here’s a couple of the things I discovered...

In the book from the prophet Isaiah God says this to God’s Chosen People...
“⁷ For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. ⁸ In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer.
⁹ This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isa. 54:7-10) Here God says this covenant God made with Noah was a covenant of peace. Remember that, we’ll get back to it in a minute... This still doesn’t help to figure out what Noah had that the rest of the humans lacked. Then I came across this verse from Saint Paul’s letter to the Hebrew Churches: “⁷ By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. (Heb. 11:7) This lone verse in the book of Hebrews sheds

great light on our friend Noah. He found favor with God because he acted in faith. Noah, listened to God. He trusted God's Word and he acted in faith. When God said build an Ark, Noah heard God's still small voice, he trusted what God said, and he built the Ark exactly as God instructed. When it came time for the rain to begin, Noah waited for all the animals to board the Ark and obeyed God's commands. That's what set Noah apart from all the other humans. He trusted God enough to do what God said, even when he didn't understand all the details. Imagine how much trust it would have taken for Noah to build a giant ark because it was about to rain. According to the Bible, up until the flood, it had never rained on the earth before. The ground and all the plants were watered by springs that came out of the ground. Plants that were too far away from the springs were watered by the morning dew. There was no rain at all, ever. So, when God said to Noah, "I'm going to make it rain on the face of the earth for 40 days and 40 nights," Noah must have said, "Excuse me Almighty, but what is rain?" Can you imagine the laughter and ridicule Noah must have received by literally everyone around him? Noah has gone off the deep end, they probably thought or even said aloud... The poor fellow has lost his mind... I have no idea what they thought or said to Noah, but I imagine the pressure to stop wasting his time and money building such a clearly useless boat would have been immense. Despite the jeering of his neighbors and friends, Noah was undeterred. He did build the ark and he built it exactly to the specifications God had given. That's faith! That's trusting in

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things not seen and in things that had literally never happened before, just because God said it. That's the whole point of this epic story. It helps us to understand what real faith is all about. It was the faith of Noah that caught God's eye and inspired God to offer this great promise, to never destroy all flesh in this way again.

As a sign of this promise God hung his bow in the sky.

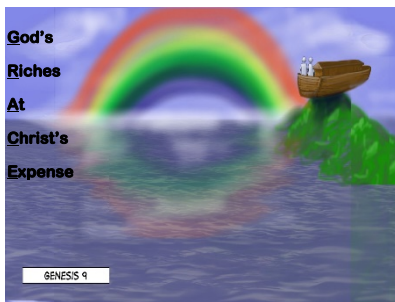


(SLIDE) We tend to see the rainbow and then remember God's promise about the flood, but the Bible says God put it there not to remind us, but as his own reminder to be compassionate and kind to His creation. The Hebrew word used here is the same word used for the bow used by archers.



(SLIDE) During the time when this story was being written and edited into this final form, the highest form of technology used in warfare were the battalions of archers and the bow and arrow were the tomahawk missiles of the day. Archers were the most effective weapons of war and the most feared. So, by hanging His bow in the heavens, God is promising never to be at war with all creation again. That's why the prophet Isaiah said this was a covenant of peace. It's God's peace treaty. If the earth is going to be destroyed again, it won't be by the hand of God... He's hung

up his weapons. Instead, God chooses a more compassionate and loving approach. His weapons of choice are kindness and Grace...



(SLIDE)

When God acts with compassion and kindness toward us, we call that Grace. It's grace because none of us deserve God's unmerited favor. Remember your confirmation definition of Grace? God's Riches At Christ's Expense... Grace is the unearned and unwarranted love of God, not because of who we are or anything we've done, but simply because of who God is... Even Noah disgraced himself by allowing himself to be caught drunk and naked by his son, Ham. So, even Noah, who had God's eye and was righteous and blameless, even this great man who we still talk about and teach about to our children in Sunday School, even this faith-filled man who walked with God, sinned and fell short of God's glory. None of us are perfect, not even Noah. Yet because of his faith and his trust in God, God saved Noah and his family and at the same time gave the human race our first mulligan.

Since then, God has been in the mulligan granting business. Instead of looking upon humans and seeing the evil we do on a daily basis, God looks at us and sees opportunities for love, forgiveness, and Grace. Our sin still grieves God, but instead of wrath, God provides for us, God loves us, and God forgives us. God

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makes us totally new creatures, not in the flood waters of Noah, but in the
Baptismal Waters of Christ's Church.



(SLIDE) In our Baptism God forgives us and blots
out our sin and we arise out of the water of Baptism a new
creation, one that lives and walks with God by faith.

May we have the faith of Noah to hear God's still small voice and obey.
May we see God's bow hanging in the sky and trust God loves us enough to never
go to war again with all humanity, but rather remind himself of God's promise to
love and to redeem us now and every day. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

P: It is appropriate to respond to God's Word by confessing our faith. Please rise as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles or Nicene 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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

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- * Please stand if able
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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident in the promises of our covenant God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Faithful God, you saved Noah and his family, along with all the animals and sources of food, from destruction by flood. Remind us daily that we are inheritors of your mercy. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: All creation thrives because you are a God who creates, rather than destroys. Show us how to nurture all that you have made, so that it may continue to thrive for generations to come.

God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Grant wisdom to our world's leaders, so that all might treat your world with kindness and mercy. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Shower your beautiful creation with healing of body, mind, and spirit. Take special care of all who suffer, (*especially*). God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give those with means the desire to share generously with those who have little or nothing. Balance this world with mercy and justice.

God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we remember the saints for their leadership in creating beauty in this world.

God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Trusting in your grace and mercy, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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:

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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... All of creation is yours, gracious God. Accept these gifts which we return to you with gratitude for the sake of the world.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the tie that binds us together. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" LBW 467**



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

*** 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, September 18th
 Genesis 12:1-9

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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

This Week @ Trinity – September 11 thru September 18, 2022

Sun, Sept. 11 10:30 am Worship

Wed, Sept. 14 6:30 pm Confirmation

Thurs, Sept. 15 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Tolly’s Gastropub,
644 Wagner Ave., Greenville

Fri, Sept. 16 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, Sept. 18 10:30 am Worship w/Communion
3:30 pm Wedding of Trevor Musser & Alexis Lowery

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Go for a massage
MIND: Clean out your closet- prepare for cooler weather
SPIRIT: Bring a friend to church

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 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.

* Please stand if able
• Please be seated



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