

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



1 Peter 4
July 31, 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...

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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

LBW 488



1 Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, breath of God; so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love all that you love and do what you would do.
un - til with you I will one will to do and to en - dure.
but live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

*** 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... Merciful God, You have called us to be stewards of your grace. Inspire us to serve one another with whatever gifts we have received, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

July 31, 2022

• Please be seated

Page 2 of 15

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Good morning Boys and Girls! I hope you all had a great week. Have you ever played Paak-A Boo? I love to play and see the baby react by smiling and laughing when they see me again. It's not just a fun game, but actually teaches babies that even though they can't see the one playing with them, they are always there. Have you ever known a time when it seemed like Jesus was playing Peek A Boo with you? Maybe you prayed for something but didn't get it or had to wait a long time before getting it. That can sure seem like Jesus is playing Paak A Boo with us...

There was a time when Jesus did play Peek A Boo with all the living. In the scripture reading this morning Peter writes that the Gospel was proclaimed to people who had already died. Here's how that happened...Remember what happened on Good Friday? That's right, they put him to death on the cross and then buried him in a tomb. Do you know what Jesus did after Good Friday and before Easter Sunday? I'm talking about on the Saturday we call Holy Saturday... In the Apostle's Creed we say Jesus descended into Hell. I always wondered why He would do that... In the footnote below the Apostle's Creed it says we can say Jesus descended to the place of the dead instead of Hell. In the way the ancient people thought, the place of the dead or Hell was the place where all the dead went after they died. There wasn't any thought of Heaven or Hell, they just thought everyone went to this place of the dead. That's where Jesus went after he died too. When He was in the place of the dead, Jesus proclaimed the same Gospel Good News to all the souls there that He did to those who were alive.

So, even though nobody could see Jesus, He was still doing God's work, even in death. What happened on Easter Morning? That's right Jesus rose from the dead and just like when we play Peek A Boo all his disciples and friends could see him again. Even though you can't see Jesus in the flesh, he is still with us in His Holy Spirit and in the Church. In fact, Jesus asked all of us to love one another to show others that Jesus is alive in us. Can you show three people Jesus loves them by doing something nice for them this week? That's my challenge for you...

Now, let's play Peek A Boo one time before we pray... Peek A Boo, I see you!

Dear Jesus, we know that even when we can't see or feel your presence, you are still with us in your Holy Spirit and in the people who make up your Church. Help us to see you clearly through the eyes of our faith and to be your body, doing your work, so others can see you through us. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 4**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 1 Peter, Chapter 4.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

July 31, 2022

Page 3 of 15

4 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), ²so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. ³You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry.

⁴They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. ⁵But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

⁷The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

¹⁰Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. ¹⁶Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" ¹⁹Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

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

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who suffered in the flesh for you, Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

I attended college, the first time, back in the late 1970s. I remember the great blizzard of 1977-78. I also remember the great blizzard was only one of many snowstorms that year. In fact, we didn't have a full week of school in the winter quarter that year until finals week. Of course, we'd have good weather for that... I was taking Organic Chemistry among my various classes that quarter. The professor, whose name I've long forgotten, used to come to class and say something like, "Last time we met we were on chapter 4. After two snow days while you slept in and partied, I kept on going. I'm now on chapter 7.

The last time I preached from this pulpit we were on chapter 2 of First Peter. Then we had our VBS celebration last Sunday. While you all were celebrating, I kept going. I'm now on Chapter 4. I hope you kept up by reading chapter 3... In case you didn't here's the Reader's Digest version... Peter begins chapter 3 by encouraging wives and husbands to honor one another. The language might make some of us cringe by today's standards, but remember Peter was writing during a time when the patriarchy was alive and in full swing. If he were writing today I think he would use different wording... Peter then went on to remind the early

Christians to always do good. Not to earn their salvation, but so that others would see them doing good, even during hard times and times of persecution and as a result would see the glory of God reflected in them and through their kindness in the face of suffering, would be won over to Christ. Finally, Peter exhorts all of us to always be ready to defend why you could have such hope despite all the pain and suffering going on all around. Why were those early martyrs unwilling to renounce Jesus as Lord, even when facing certain death? What did they have that helped them keep the faith despite oppression and persecution? Chapter three ends with a brief description of all that Christ suffered and how God has seated Him at God's Right Hand, the seat of power. I can't tell you why God did it that way , but it's clear that suffering comes before God's Glory... First the cross, then the crown—first Good Friday, then Easter Sunday...

That brings us up to speed and we're ready to look at Chapter four, which begins with a reference to Christ's suffering on our behalf. Since Christ did all of that for you, now, through your present suffering, you are joined to Christ in the suffering He endured for you. Peter isn't talking about your general, run of the mill suffering here. I'm not sure he knew what arthritis is or how painful your Crone's Disease is. I'm quite certain Peter never felt the pain associated with growing old, since he was crucified upside down on a hill in Rome called the

Vatican. The suffering Peter refers to is the suffering you endure for proclaiming God's love and forgiveness to a Christ-less world. You see, people who already see themselves as basically good, don't understand the Gospel message of repentance. They see no need to repent, they're already good people. Asking them to repent is offensive to them and can make them very angry. Just look what they did to Jesus... If you are really following in Christ's footsteps, don't expect a bed of roses, unless you're willing to lay down amongst the thorns...

In our Scripture for today, Peter says it doesn't make us better people to suffer justly. If you are a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even just a mischief maker and suffer, you're just reaping what you've sown. The suffering Peter's talking about is when you try to help someone, and they rebuff you and call you vile names just for offering to help. When you suffer for doing good, that's when you're joined to the suffering of Christ. The aches and pains we feel in our old age are nothing, but the results of good hard living. I don't know how you deal with your age-related aches and pains, but I try to celebrate each and every one because they remind me of my youth and how I got this far. I know I haven't always taken care of this body and the pains I have now were earned by living life to the fullest at every age all the way to the present.

Peter addresses the fact that we all face the judgement of Christ. The living and the dead will be held accountable. We believe that Jesus descended to Hell as we confess in the Creeds. Peter is referring to this when he states “the Gospel was proclaimed even to the dead.” It’s my belief and the beliefs of most scholars that this is what Jesus did on Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter. He descended into Hell and proclaimed the Gospel to the dead, giving them the same opportunity we have during our lives, to repent from evil and to turn to God for our help and salvation.

Peter and Paul both shared the belief that the Second coming of Jesus would be very near. They both tried to answer the question about what happens to Christians who heard the Gospel, responded in Faith, but then died before Christ’s Second Coming. That’s a very relevant question for all of us who have lost loved ones and may be facing questions of our own mortality as we suffer the aging process. Not many of us suffer persecution for our faith, but we all face the inevitable judgement of this world in the flesh. That judgment is death itself. Every day we march closer and closer to that day when we will face the judgement in the flesh. The older I get the more I tend to think about death. I used to think I was invincible. Now I struggle to put on my pants without losing my balance and falling over... The wages of sin is death, but the good news in Christ is that we

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

have been given this incredible gift of eternal life with God. We've been given the best gift of all, forgiveness of our sin and along with that, the opportunity to live our lives by doing the will of God. When our sin is wiped away so is the judgement in the flesh. My dear Church, eternity starts now. Yes, we will all die, but as Luther said, we don't fear the little death, because it's no more than the gateway to eternal life.

So, now what? What are we to do with the rest of our lives, now that Jesus has suffered once and for all, for you and for me? After Jesus was resurrected he asked Peter, not once or twice, but three times if he, Peter, loved Jesus. Once for each time Peter denied knowing Jesus. Each time Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter said, "Yes, I love you Lord..." Jesus told him to, "Feed My Sheep." This was Peter's reinstatement back into the group of Jesus followers and his Commission to bring the Word of God to all people through good works and kindness and the proclamation of the Gospel. Feeding hungry people has always been on Jesus' list of good deeds. Peter reminds the Churches that even though they are facing a fiery ordeal, the work must go on. When we continue in doing good, no matter the costs, people, especially the ones who don't yet know God's love, will see what we're doing and want to know more. That's when we get the opportunity to give the defense for the hope that we have in Christ's saving act of

love on the cross. He obeyed all the law perfectly. He lived a sinless life, yet died a cruel death for us, in our place. His goodness and his righteousness cover not just a multitude of sin, but each and every sin, from the little white lie to the most heinous murder. Jesus' righteousness covers even my sin and yours too. That's some pretty good news for a sinner like me. How about you?

May the goodness of our God transform you into the righteous person God created you to be. May the Good News of your salvation bring you joy and hope even during the present suffering. May the joy of everlasting life cover all your pain and provoke you to even greater acts of love and kindness in the name of our Savior and our Lord, Jesus Christ, until either we join that great heavenly feast prepared for us or Jesus does return and brings heaven to earth for all flesh to see. Either way, may God's glory shine in everything we do, now and forever, 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.

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 all, give us courage to live in accordance to your word, even when it might put us in opposition to the world. Hold us in our suffering for your name's sake. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make us good stewards of your creation, that we might protect and cherish what you have entrusted to us for the good of ourselves and future generations. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Guide and inspire leaders at every level to serve as you would have them. Spur us to action in supporting them, that we may do our part in building healthy communities. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: In the person of Jesus Christ you have keenly felt the pain and suffering of humanity. Hold all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, (*especially*). Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We are all your saints, O God, called into a life of faith and devotion to you.

Inspire us by the memory of those saints who have preceded us, until we meet again face to face. 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.

*** 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...God you have entrusted us with the stewardship of all that you have given us. In a spirit of generosity we offer these gifts in service to others. Pour out your blessing on them, that they might change lives.

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**

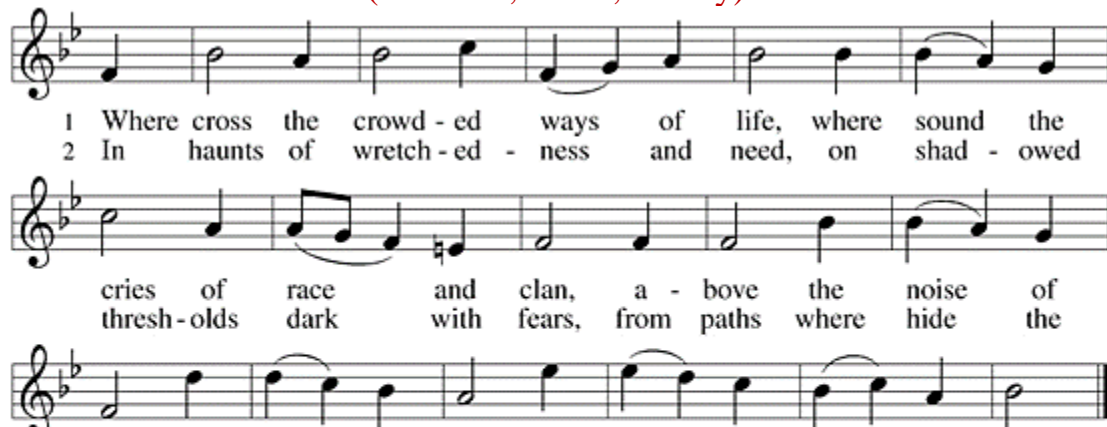
P: The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

* **SENDING HYMN “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” LBW 429**
(Verses 1, 2 & 5, 6 Only)



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of the
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide of the
 self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

* **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

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

* Please stand if able

July 31, 2022

• Please be seated

Page 13 of 15



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 7th
1 Peter 5

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Bev Erdmann
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 honor of Melanie's birthday.



This Week @ Trinity – July 31 thru August 7, 2022

Sun, July 31 10:30 am Worship Service
Fri, August 5 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, August 7 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion



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

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated



Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Use sunscreen

MIND: Learn a new word

SPIRIT: Draw a picture

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.

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