

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



Exodus 16:1-18
October 10, 2021



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page, our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.



* **HYMN OF PRAISE “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” LBW 200**



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

* **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... Faithful God, the Israelites had a hard time seeing what you were up to. Teach us to trust that you know what you're doing when we cannot see the bigger picture.

C: Amen.

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: God Provides Enough

Scripture: Exodus 16:1-18

Items Needed: Fruit Snacks

Good morning boys and girls. I'm so happy to see all of you today. This morning I want to talk to you about how God provides for our daily needs. To show you what I mean I have a basket with some fruit snacks. There's enough to go around for everyone, but only if everyone takes just one package.

What would happen if I just handed you the basket and told you that you could take what you needed for today? Would everyone take just one package or would the first few take more than one and leave nothing for the rest? Well, there's a story in the Old Testament book of Exodus, that's the second book of the Bible. In that story Moses was leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt, where they were slaves, into the land promised by God. Along the way they got lost in the wilderness for a long, long, long time. Like 40 years...

During that time the people got really hungry. Have you been really hungry before? If you have, then you know how they must have felt. God must have heard their stomachs growling because he told Moses He would rain bread from heaven for the people to eat. The thing about this bread was there would only be enough if everyone took just one day's worth. It really didn't do much good to take more than you could eat in one day because it would go rotten.

In this way God was teaching his chosen people to trust that God would give them everything they needed for each day. When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray he said we should ask God for our daily bread. That means we are to ask for and trust that God knows everything we need from the air we breath to the water we drink and even the food we eat and that God will make sure the earth provides all this stuff for everyone.

Today there are many people who don't get enough to eat or to drink each day. Some people blame God for not providing enough for everyone, but I don't think it's God's fault that some people don't get enough. I think there are starving people because some people have taken more than their fair share and more than they could eat in a hundred years, let alone enough for just today. I hope I never take more than my fair share, especially if it means my extra portion means that someone else doesn't get any.

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for providing our food, water, homes, and our family. Help us to only take from your bounty the amount we need and no more. Help us to share anything extra we have with others who don't have the abundance you have blessed us with. In Jesus Name, amen.

* Please stand if able

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• **SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 16:1-18**

P: Our scripture reading is from the Book of Exodus, Chapter 16.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

16The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’” ¹⁷The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some

* Please stand if able

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less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

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 our Daily Bread, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

As many of you know, I am a veteran of Desert Storm. I was stationed at Langley AFB in Virginia, and we were the first troops in the country of Saudi Arabia on August 8, 1990. They say an army travels on its stomach, well, in the Air Force we ate pretty well. For breakfast and supper everyone went to the dining tent where we received the best food the Air Force could provide. We dined on scrumptious reconstituted scrambled eggs in the morning and rehydrated beef or shrimp in the evening. Both were fairly tolerable. Lunch was the biggest disappointment. We were each given one MRE every day. MRE stands for Meals Ready to Eat, but most of us referred to them as Meals Rejected by Everyone... No matter which entre you got in the bag, they all tasted pretty much the same. They even began including a tiny bottle of hot sauce so you could at least get some flavor. I don't think they needed to put an expiration date in the package. It was designed to last for decades...

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In our scripture reading for today, the manna God rained down from heaven was just the opposite. It would melt and attract bugs in the heat of the afternoon. The writer of Exodus tells us this was to test the people. It was to ensure they would actually listen to God's Word. As the story begins today, the Israelites have already been freed from slavery in Egypt and God had miraculously brought them across the Red Sea. These people had witnessed, firsthand, all these mighty acts of their living God who had brought them up, out of slavery in Egypt and was now teaching them how to be God's people.

Have you ever wondered why Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Promised Land? Most of us thought it was because Moses was too stubborn to stop and ask for directions, but the truth is God was training, teaching, and coaching these wandering nomads. God was helping them become a nation, a Holy Priesthood, the Chosen People of God. It wasn't Moses's fault it took 40 years, it was the hard headed, stiff necked people who either didn't understand God's commands or, more likely, willfully disobeyed God, or just as likely, couldn't bring themselves to trust in God to provide for their needs every single day.. They didn't trust God to provide and so they complained. They complained against Moses, asking why Moses had led them out into this wilderness, only to be killed by starvation. What they didn't seem to understand

was that Moses was only the servant of their mighty God. So, when they complained against Moses, they were complaining against God. They were really asking if God wanted them to suffer and die a slow, agonizing death when they could have been living the good life back in Egypt. How soon we forget... That's the way of humans. We too soon forget the lessons we learned.

So, God is patient with them and forgives their lack of trust. God provides bread in the morning and meat in the evening. The timing and the sheer amount of the Manna and the meat was the real miracle. Scientists have discovered a certain species of insect that eats the wood of a certain bush that grows in that part of the world and when it does it secretes a substance that when dried and baked, makes a sort of bread or cake. The problem with that scientific explanation is that there are nowhere near enough of those insects or those bushes to produce enough of that substance to feed the estimated 2 million people who travelled with Moses. The same goes for the Quale. Yes, these migratory birds could have been blown off course by a strong western wind, but enough of them to feed all those people? Not hardly! As I said, the miracle was in the timing and the amount of food to feed that many people for 40 years, even as they moved from place to place. The manna and the Quale somehow kept finding their campsites.

This story of the manna coming from heaven is picked up in the New Testament book of John. Right after feeding over 5000 men plus women and children, Jesus gets into a boat and goes across the sea of Galilee. The recently fed people followed him and met him on the other side. When Jesus sees them he says they only followed him because of the food. He compared that great feeding miracle to the feeding of the Israelites in the wilderness, but says their ancestors ate the manna and still died. Those who eat the true bread from heaven will live forever. Then he shocked them by adding that He himself is the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven. Those who eat of his flesh and drink of his blood will have eternal life.

This story of the manna in the wilderness is a foreshadowing of Christ. The people who ate the Manna still died in their sin. They were still trying to learn and God was still in the process of teaching them how to be His people. It seems to me that God makes a big deal out of our trusting Him. I mean this is the one thing God wants from us, our trust. That's the point of God limiting their supply of food to a single day. They would look forward to tomorrow, when once a gain God would provide. This would have been a good lesson to read back at the beginning of the pandemic when toilet paper was flying off the shelves. It may still be a good

lesson for us all to learn as the many shortages continue to crop up as the pandemic continues to devastate so many lives, not to mention the national economy.

The way we react to shortages today is the same as those Israelites of long ago. As some of us were talking yesterday while decorating the basement for the Fall Festival, someone mentioned the fact that so many of the people who were fed the last couple of times at the Grace Resurrection Soup Kitchen suddenly had 3 or 4 or more homebound family members or neighbors who needed take home meals. The soup kitchen has gone from serving about 60 to 80 - meals to over 120. I'm not saying some of these take out meals weren't legitimate, but I suspect some of that increased number is due to hoarding. Another story was told about living close to a golf course and after collecting a large amount of stray golf balls this person threw a bunch of them out onto the fairway of one of the holes on the course. She watched from her back porch as a couple of golfers came upon the treasure trove of golf balls. She said they decided the balls were still in very good condition, so they picked up every last one of them. They apparently never gave a thought to how many balls they might need for the rest of their round of golf, nor did they think of leaving some for the next foursome that was playing behind them.

Just when my holier than thou hat starts fitting pretty good and I'm looking down my very long and very judgmental nose at those people, I remember that

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every time I find Yoplait Blueberry Lite and Fit Yogurt at the grocery store, I buy every carton they have on the shelf. Once, not too long ago, they were unpacking cartons of yogurt and I grabbed the entire case of blueberry before it was even put on the shelf. We are all led by our stomachs. Yet, I'm not convinced that's where we fall into sin. God created us with stomachs that require feeding. God created all of our human appetites, so how can seeking to satisfy those appetites be sinful? I'm not talking about simple greed here. The problem is much more insidious than simple greed. Our first major problem is that we lack trust in our God to provide tomorrow what we're going to need for tomorrow. Some of you might object to my analysis by protesting that it's not that we don't trust in God to provide, but we don't trust in the humans who run the systems of production and distribution down here in the real world. Using my own example, it's not that I don't trust God that there will be more blueberry yogurt next week, it's that I don't trust the grocer will order and stock enough for next week. So, I'll hoard what we can get today, since I don't trust the human side of the supply chain. Nice try... The Israelites complained against Moses, but everyone knew it was God they didn't trust.

My granddaughter, Emery is 2 years old. She loves to play the game where she climbs onto a chair and they throws herself down in my general direction knowing I will catch her. So far, I've been paying attention enough to see when

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she's getting ready for this little game of hers and I've been able to catch her. I know the day is coming when she will lose that childhood trust, but for now I'm just enjoying every minute. That's the kind of trust God wants from us. God wants us to trust in His abundance and in His willingness to bless us each and every day.

May we learn to rely on God for our daily bread and for all the necessary stuff we need to survive and to thrive. May we never forget the ultimate source of all our daily needs, God our Father. May we trust in God, but also in our Savior Jesus Christ for the one greatest need of all, the salvation we receive when we let go of our need to control everything and give our lives, our thanks, and our love to our heavenly Father who delights in our childlike trust. 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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Forgive us when we look for what is lacking rather than rejoicing in the plenty of our lives. Continue to bless us, not only with those things we need, but with a spirit of holy gratitude. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We reap the riches of the land and benefit from the treasures of the earth. Wake us up to the breadth of responsibility required to preserve this fertile planet, and don't ever let us lose sight of our interconnectedness with it and its fate. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Just as you called St. Philip the Deacon to care for the poor in Jerusalem, call us to work for justice for all those unable to meet basic needs in our society.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your blessings rain upon us from the heavens, O God. Shower us with your healing and surround each person who suffers, cloaking them with your presence and love. Especially today we lift up... Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We follow the trail of your saints, stretching through miles of wilderness, over centuries of grace. Give us the faith which they showed, and patience when the way ahead seems unclear. Generous God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Bless us, O Lord, and these prayers which we raise to you. Give us assurance of your steadfast promises, and peace in your presence. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day. God, it is your will to continually shower us with blessings. Take out of our abundance and supply the needs of those who have very little. Help us to be the fulfillment of your promises to them. Bless these gifts to your good purpose.

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: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN** **“Glories of Your Name Are Spoken”** **LBW 358**



1 Glo - ries of your name are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov-'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem - ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.
 well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.



On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Fad - ing are the world - lings' plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
 Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
 sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

* **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** **“America, the Beautiful”** **Roxanne Groff**

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 10th 0
1 Samuel 3:1-21

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Try foods from around the world
MIND: Not always about what you say but how you say it
SPIRIT: Feel the wind and give thanks to God

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Trinity Fall Festival: October 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

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AROUND THE PARISH

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Week @ Trinity – October 10 thru October 17, 2021

Sun, October 10 10:30 am Worship Service

Tue, October 11 **COLUMBUS DAY**

Wed, October 12 6:30 pm Christian Education Team Meeting
 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs, October 14 10:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting

Fri, October 15 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, October 17 10:30 am Worship Service

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is Sunday, November 7th. All reports to be included in the packets are due **TODAY**. Put them in the secretary’s mailbox or email them to secretary@pitsburgtlc.org **THANKS!**

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