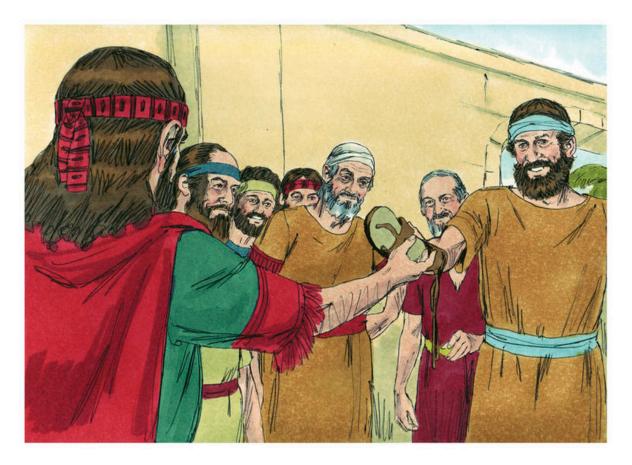
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Ruth 4 September 4, 2022



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

• Prelude

Darrell Fryman

Pr Mel Musser

• Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell

• Welcome

- P: We begin our Worship in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen
- P: In a world where you can be anything, be kind...

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
- P: Let's all arise if able as we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

- C: We are not always quick to claim you as our God. We do not show care for one another. We fail to see all people as your people, and hurt one another with our actions or lack of action. Forgive us our sins, and give us the same fierce love for our neighbors that Ruth had for Naomi.
- P: God, who calls and sustains, forgives you all your sins. Go forth in the confidence of God's loving care, in Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

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* Please stand if able

* 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 lovingkindness, You blessed your servants Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi with the birth of a son, who would be an ancestor of Jesus. Bless us now as inheritors of Jesus' reign, for the sake of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: God is Faithful Object: Plat Trust Game Scripture: Ruth 4

Good morning girls and boys. I'm so happy to see you here today! Did you have a good week? How's school going? Do you like your teachers? I hope so, you'll be spending a lot of time with them over the next 9 months...

Today we're going to talk about how faithful God is toward us. Do you know what that word means, faithful? Yes, it means trustworthy, loyal, and true. It means we can always count on God's love for us, even when things don't go our way. In the Bible there's a story about a young woman named Ruth. She was from a country far away. She got married to a man who came from Bethlehem, but he died and left her all alone, except for her husband's mother. Her name was Naomi. The two women returned from the far country called Moab back to Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem. Even though both Naomi and Ruth had lost their husbands, God worked in their lives and Ruth found another husband. His name was Boaz and Boaz loved Ruth so much he also took Naomi into his house and took care of her and Ruth together. None of them were ever lonely again.

God was faithful to Ruth because she was well cared for and included in the family of God even though she was not a Hebrew or and Israelite. Ruth trusted God enough to follow Naomi back to Bethlehem and God rewarded that trust by giving her a son and including her in God's family.

Today I want to help you understand what trust means and what faithfulness is all about. I need one volunteer. Do you trust me? Then fall backwards into my arms. I will catch you and you will not fall. (Give each child the chance to volunteer if they want to. Don't force anyone to play...)

Did I let anyone fall to the ground? Of course not! I'm just an old Pastor. Can you imagine how much more God is willing to do to keep you from falling? He was willing to send Jesus to die for you and for me! That's true faithfulness!

Let's pray... Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being a faithful God. Thank you for sending faithful Jesus to be our savior. He rescued us from sin and death to be included in your family and in this Church. Thanks God for all you do for us. Amen.

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• SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth 4

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin, of whom Boaz had spoken, came passing by. So Boaz said, "Come over, friend; sit down here." And he went over and sat down. ²Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here"; so they sat down. ³He then said to the next-of-kin, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. ⁴So I thought I would tell you of it, and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here, and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you." So he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵Then Boaz said, "The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance." ⁶At this, the next-of-kin said, "I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it." ⁷Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, "Acquire it for yourself," he took off his sandal.

⁹Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses." ¹¹Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; ¹²and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your

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old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¹⁸Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, ²¹Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, ²²Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the descendant of Ruth, our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

We're coming to the end of the story of Ruth. We've walked with Naomi, Ruth and Boaz through normal family life, periods of grief, and times of poverty and struggling to survive and back to a new normal in Bethlehem with a new family and a new hope for the future. We've witnessed the loyalty of Ruth, the hopelessness of Naomi and the generosity of Boaz. Now, life has come full circle. With the marriage of Boaz to Ruth the story returns to normal family life—and the continued revealing of God's will. I have to admit the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz has some really strange traditions and customs, but beyond all the marriage traditions and the shoe exchange customs, this is a story that moves from despair to joy, from childless, friendless, and penniless to rejoicing with family, an heir, and a legacy. This epic saga displays God's all-encompassing compassion and God's

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desire to include all people into the great plan of salvation of the whole world. I'm not going to use my precious short sermon time to try to explain these really weird ancient customs like exchanging one sandal to seal a transaction... My guess is they didn't have paper to give as a receipt, so exchanging shoes was the next best thing... If we can get past the weird ancient traditions and instead focus on what this wonderful story reveals about human nature and about our God, then the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz becomes much more relevant for us all these years later...

Fourteen times in these four short chapters Ruth is referred to as coming from Moab or being "that Moabite woman." The author certainly didn't want us to forget who Ruth was and where she came from. During a time in Israelite history when keeping the faith pure from unclean outsiders was of utmost importance, we have this epic story of inclusion and redemption. After the Israelites had returned to Jerusalem and the surrounding area from their captivity in Babylon, the desire to keep their faith pure from outside influences really kicked in. When the Hebrew people were defeated by the Babylonian army, the rich and educated were deported into Babylon. They spent at least 3 generations in a foreign land where they worked diligently to keep the influences of the pagan Babylonian religion out of their Jewish faith. They didn't allow marriages between the Jews and the

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Babylonians or any other interactions that might have led to the defilement of their worship of the God of Israel. After returning to Judah these ultra-purist Hebrews discovered that the people left behind hadn't been nearly as diligent in keeping the faith pure from the influences of outside religions. In fact, as the Babylonian army deported the rich and educated Jews out of Judah they imported other poor and uneducated people from other foreign lands into the region. When the Jews returned from captivity to their home, they discovered that many of those that had been left behind had married foreigners and incorporated some of their pagan religious practices into the worship of their God, Yahweh. This caused a lot of distress because of how hard those who were returning from Babylon had worked to remain pure to Yahweh. They even went so far as to try to force those who had intermarried, to divorce their spouses and renounce their children... Many scholars believe this was the context into which Ruth was written. It was a story to illustrate just how inclusive this God actually is. Imagine how shocking this story would have been to those purists in and around Jerusalem and Bethlehem at that time.

I told you the first week when we began focusing on the book of Ruth that there was going to be a surprise ending. The surprise and the shock to the original intended audience of this story is that not only were Ruth and Naomi redeemed and

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taken in by a well-respected man of means in Bethlehem, but this Moabite foreigner has now become the mother of Obed, grandmather of Jesse and greatgrandmother of the greatest King in Israel's history up until that time, King David. The topsy turvy story even goes a giant step further. Not only is Ruth the Great-Grandmother of King David, she is also included in the lineage of our redeemer and savior, Jesus Christ. How's that for a surprise turn around in fortune!

The story of Ruth shows us there are no boundaries to God's inclusive love and salvation. I wonder what boundaries we set up that exclude others today. Boundaries are good things, generally. When I think about the boundaries of our country I want us to be a kind and welcoming country that helps those who are poor or persecuted in their own homeland. On the other hand, I want our government to keep us safe from allowing terrorists and people with Covid from entering. People on the right side of the aisle claim our border is too wide open and people on the left side of the aisle say we're only doing what is right and honorable by allowing all those claiming asylum to come and enjoy all that the United States has to offer. There has to be a path somewhere in the middle where we can offer safety and security to both those seeking a better life here in America while still providing for the security and safety of people who are already citizens of this great land. I certainly don't have all the answers, but I do try to understand

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both sides and to pray about our boundaries and borders and for those who guard those boundaries every day.

Ruth was undeterred, even when instructed by Naomi to return to her own family and kind in Moab. Instead, she pressed on with Naomi, pledging her undying faithfulness to her mother-in-law. Like all those people in caravans suffering as they walk thousands of miles from South America, through Mexico to our southern border, Ruth walked by faith. She had no idea that her kindness to Naomi would lead to God's ultimate kindness toward her.

The story of Ruth is also a story about generosity. Ruth generously gave everything to Naomi. Her loyalty cost her a chance at a "normal" life with her own family and her own countrymen. Boaz is the epitome of generosity. He first protected Ruth and Naomi by allowing Ruth to glean from his fields. Then, after clearing the hurdles of religious law, he made the ultimate commitment to both women by marrying Ruth and promising to take care of all their needs. Generosity is a blessing for those with whom gifts are shared and also for the person who shares the gift. Ruth and Naomi have been blessed, but Boaz's life has been enriched, also. Not only is generosity a blessing, it is also a characteristic of people who follow the Lord. Generosity is an action through which God's will can be expressed. We are made by God to be generous people and I believe generous

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people are by far the happiest people on the planet. By definition generous people don't attach their self-identity to their possessions. If they did, they simply would not be able to be generous. Generous people know the same God who has already given them so much, will continue to give them even more. It's an attitude that comes from abundance. It's an attitude born out of being satisfied with what we have and knowing God will always provide for tomorrow.

Throughout the book of Ruth we see glimpses of God's steadfast love. Even in the first chapter when Naomi declares that her name should be "Bitter" because the Lord is treating her bitterly, we can see God's steadfast love. No matter what state Naomi and Ruth find themselves, God is present and God's steadfast love is part of their lives. This love isn't a mystical love. This love is expressed in the words and actions of people. We see this love in the loyalty of Ruth, and in the generosity of Boaz. We also see it in the birth of children that lead to King David and eventually to Jesus the Christ.

As we come to the end of Ruth's story, we can take away three things: a renewed sense of comfort, strength and hope. Our good news for today is that just as God looked after Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, so God is looking after all of us. No matter where we are in life, God is with us, and God's love will never be separated from us. As the psalmist writes in Psalm 136, "The steadfast love of the Lord

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never ceases and his mercies never come to an end. They are new each morning."

May the Lord continue to bless us each morning and make us into his kind and

generous people, because in a world where you can be anything, we can be kind!

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: Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of promise, with the birth of a son, Obed, to Ruth and Boaz, the hope of new life in your earthly kingdom was born. With the birth of his descendant, Jesus, the hope of new life in your heavenly kingdom became a reality as well. Bless us with the hope that one day we will become inheritors of all that is yours. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

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L: All the things that you have created, both big and small, carry the hope of newness of life. Show us how to be intentional caretakers of all that you have made so that this earth sustains life long beyond our years. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: All the leaders that you have chosen and equipped carry the hope of new ways of living in justice and peace. Make them stewards of your people so that peace reigns in this world. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: All the children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit carry the hope of healing. Bring to health and wholeness all who cry for your healing touch, *(especially)*. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: All the people who wake each morning in parts of the world that suffer from oppression, exile, or torment, carry the hope that one day soon you will bring an end to their suffering. Make that day a reality so that all may live without fear. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: All the saints who have preceded us carry the hope of the resurrection and eternal life with you. May we look forward to the day of our reunion. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior.

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.... Generous God, you bring joy to our lives and bless us with abundance. We offer these gifts out of that abundance. Bless them that they might bring joy and flourishing to the lives of others.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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

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 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.

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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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: As Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz celebrated the birth of their son, let us celebrate together the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ our savior. Come to the feast of life.

• 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

* Please stand if able

• 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.



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* DISMISSAL

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well. We're glad you're with us today. In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

* POSTLUDE

Darrell Fryman

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I rimity worship Assistants and Stan		
Ministers	All the People of Trinity	
Organist	Roxanne Groff	
Lector	PJ Musser	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser	
Custodian	Mark Groff	
Secretary	Sharon Fourman	
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser	
Altar Flowers		

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Health Tips for the Week BODY: Take a long walk MIND: Read a self-help book SPIRIT: Pray for schools

* Please stand if able



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 NOTE –

The WELCA meeting on Wednesday will be at 11:30 am!!!

This Week @ Trinity – September 4 thru September 11, 2022			
Sun, Sept. 4	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion	
Mon, Sept. 5	LABOR D	DAY	
Wed, Sept. 7	11:30 am	WELCA Meeting	
Thurs, Sept. 8	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting	
Fri, Sept. 9	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry	
Sun, Sept. 11	10:30 am	Worship Service	



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 11th Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

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.

	v
Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
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Trinity Contact Info

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