

A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

Sermon Series on the Book of Job
Week 5
July 5, 2020



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- **Prelude “We Praise Thee, O God; O Beautiful for Spacious Skies;
My Country ‘Tis of Thee; God of Our Fathers; This Is My Country;
Battle Hymn of the Republic Roxanne Groff**

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome Pr Mel**

P:

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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: Gracious God,

C: We are tempted to be thankful only when things are going well for us. We are tempted to take credit for all that is good in our lives. We conveniently forget that all things come from you. Forgive us for being shortsighted, arrogant and thoughtless. Cleanse our hearts and bring us back to your side, for you are all that we truly need.

P: God hears our repentance and answers our request for forgiveness. Receive the assurance of your creator's mercy and return to the loving embrace of the one who made, loved, and redeemed you. In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

*** 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: God of wisdom, You have the power to forgive and restore our lives, just as you did for Job. Accept our remorse for where we have walked astray and bring us back into relationship with you, for the sake of Jesus Christ,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 41:1-8; 42:1-17

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is selected verses from the book of Job, chapters 41 and 42.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

41 “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down its tongue with a cord? ²Can you put a rope in its nose, or pierce its jaw with a hook? ³Will it make many supplications to you? Will it speak soft words to you? ⁴Will it make a covenant with you to be taken as your servant forever? ⁵Will you play with it as with a bird, or will you put it on leash for your girls? ⁶Will traders bargain over it? Will they divide it up among the merchants? ⁷Can you fill its skin with harpoons,

* Please stand if able

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or its head with fishing spears? ⁸Lay hands on it; think of the battle; you will not do it again!”

42 Then Job answered the Lord: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴“Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.’ ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

⁷After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has done.” ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the Lord had told them; and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

¹⁰And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. ¹⁷And Job died, old and full of days.

P: 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 one who brings peace to the chaos of life, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Have any of you ever see a Leviathan? Me neither... If you read chapters 40 and 41 of Job you get a pretty in-depth description of one. It's a fearsome creature that the writer of Psalm 104 says God made for the sport of it or to play with depending on the translation you're reading. That's always been one of my favorite Psalms because it shows us a God who likes to have fun, creating a monster of the deep seas that can't be captured, whose appearance brings tears to grown men's eyes, and whose mouth is more deadly than the biggest great white shark that ever lived. Leviathan, a sea monster that even the mighty Jordan river when gorged from the melting snows in the spring can't fill its mouth. In ancient times the seas were places of chaos and the king of chaos was the Leviathan who ruled the sea and therefore also ruled the chaos. Taking all of this into consideration, God says in chapter 40 of the book of Job that God created Job like the Leviathan. Does God mean to say we were created for the sport of it or for God to play with or was God referring to the properties and characteristics such as an insatiable appetite or a lust for ruling over the chaos of this world? It's a lot to

take in, being compared to the great sea monster Leviathan, who causes so much random destruction.

After God's first speech, Job declared he was speechless and would remain silent. Who wouldn't? I mean God ends his first speech asking if a faultfinder or complainer can contend with the Almighty! By his silence, Job shows how awe struck he is by the awesomeness of God. In essence, Job is giving up his complaint against God, not because he has received what he thinks is justice, but because he's been sort of shamed by his own insignificance into realizing that God is in fact the almighty creator, all knowing, all present, and all loving God. Job recognizes, as we remind ourselves once a year on Ash Wednesday, that he is nothing more than dust from which God formed him. But, is that all there is to life—being nothing more than dust and ashes? Do we finally understand our place in God's grand scheme of things when we remember we're nothing more than a handful of mud God picked up along the riverbank back in the Book of Genesis and breathed into that clay body the breath of life? God breathed life into the lifeless and God can extinguish that life without so much as a moment's notice. That *is* how precarious our lives are... But that's not the whole story...

Job's silence in God's presence prompted God's second speech. God tells Job and by extension all of us, to gird up our loins. In other words, cheer up! Yes,

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you are made from dust and ashes, but you are so much more than that! To make His point, God launches into this description of the great sea monster Leviathan. God first described the awesome nature of the Leviathan for Job and us to get the picture of how immense and formidable this sea creature was. Leviathan probably wasn't a real creature, but is present here in the book of Job as well as in the Psalms and in the Book of Isaiah as well as in many other ancient books and legends. Leviathan is most likely a mythical creature much like Babe's Blue Ox from our own American folk lore. God's point here is that as great a creature as this mythical Leviathan is, that's how God thinks of humans. We were also created to be awesome and nearly indestructible. Yes, we are created beings, not gods, but we were created with the same love, care, and creative energy that also created the most awesome sea creature to ever be imagined. To God we are so much more than just a collection of dust and ashes, we are God's children.

After God's second speech Job finally understands he is more to God than mere dust and ashes. We know Job finally gets it because in the climactic verse in the entire book Job says, he repents. A lot of commentary ink has been used to discuss and argue about exactly why and from what Job is repenting. As I was doing my word study on the Hebrew word we have translated as repent, I found it can also mean to comfort. Using that definition changes everything about the

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ending of this epic story. Job wasn't so much convinced he had sinned and needed to repent of his sin, but rather he was comforted by God, who finally answered Job and became real for him. God comforted Job by letting him know that although he was nothing more than a created being, he was special and of great value, because God loved him. That's a great lesson for all of us. Our value as people doesn't come from what we have or the color of our skin, but comes from the fact that we were created by the almighty God of the universe who created the Leviathan and who created us too. Our value comes not from who we are, but whose we are...

In the presence of God, Job either is comforted or repents of his earlier words. I believe when there are differences in possible translations of words and phrases in the Bible God wants us to consider all possible variations. That's one way God's Word stays alive for us today. In either case, Job realizes all his friends have spoken hearsay about God. They repeated what they had been taught, but they had never experienced the actual presence of God. That has all changed now for Job. He has experienced and talked directly to God and lived to tell about it. God was finally satisfied nothing the Satan could do was going to shake Job's faith. No matter what, Job never stopped believing in God. He might have had a time where he blamed God for a lot of the bad things that kept happening, but he never gave up on God's ultimate ability to turn bad into good. Job finally realized

God's great love for all humans because we are all created out of his great love and in his perfect image.

The end of the Book returns to the same literary genre where it started, as a narrative Folk Tale. Job's fortunes are restored, and he ends up with more children who are even more beautiful than before. There is one really interesting twist. God must deal with Job's three friends who God says have not spoken rightly about him. Because of their misspoken words about God, God's wrath is great against them. I know I sure wouldn't want to be one moment under God's wrath! The thing is, they can't really do anything about their predicament. God tells them to make a sacrifice, but that won't grant them remission from their sins. Rather God instructs Job to make an intercessory prayer for his friends after they make the appropriate sacrifice.

How important is intercessory prayer in your lifestyle? The ending of this book of Job seems to indicate that when we sin, even our best sacrifices to God, our most earnest praise and worship, don't completely wipe away our sin or quench God's wrath. Only the intercession of a truly righteous person who has undergone great suffering and been found by God to be blameless and completely free from sin can wipe our slate clean. Does that description sound like anyone we know? It occurred to me that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is the real-life

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embodiment of the mythical Job. It turns out, the book of Job foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice God makes through the suffering, death, and resurrection of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who intercedes with God on our behalf. Only through Jesus can our slate be wiped clean. That's why we pray in His Holy Name! When the Satan says to God, "Have you considered Mel Musser or Have you considered (Put your name here)... Look at all the ways this human falls short." Instead of the guilty verdict you and I deserve, Jesus steps in and offers up prayers of intercession and reminds God that Jesus is the one who paid the price to satisfy the burning wrath God feels because of Sin and we are set free.

May we all come to understand our place in the universe as a teeny tiny part God's creation, but also as God's beloved children. May you repent and change your mind about your relationship with God , so God can comfort you in and through whatever suffering you endure. May Jesus always be by your side when the Satan's accusations come before God's judgment seat to declare you innocent of all charges. May the peace of Jesus Christ and the knowledge of His sacrifice for you, comfort you every day of your life. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

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*** 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.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: You love a humble heart, O Lord, and you hear us when we sincerely repent.
Make us thankful for your patience and grace when we are far from deserving it. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we celebrate our nation's independence, may we prize our citizenship in your kingdom above all other identities and work to ensure liberties for all your people on earth. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We have been entrusted with the care of all your creatures, both great and small. Forgive us our failure to protect and cherish them, and teach us a better way of coexisting with our animal sisters and brothers. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Show us where we are needed to comfort those who are suffering, trusting that your Spirit will be present with us. Heal those in need, especially... Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gather us together with all those saints who have gone before us into your kingdom, and keep us in your communion until that day. Merciful God,

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C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Receive our prayers and use us to be the answers to the needs of your people, for the sake of Jesus, 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**

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: You do not require burnt offerings, O Lord, but you delight in the gifts your people bring you. Bless these offerings and use them for your purposes in the world, through the power of your Holy Spirit,

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: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

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C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”**

P: We have been singing verses from I know That My Redeemer Lives each week as we study the book of Job. This week I thought you could pick three verses that are your favorites... Can we decide which 3 verses to sing this morning?

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.

3 He lives to grant me rich supply;
he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint;
he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

4 He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;

* Please stand if able

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he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

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

Postlude

“This Land Is Your Land ”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
Ministers	All the People of Trinity	All the People of Trinity
Lector	N/A	N/A
Acolyte	N/A	N/A
Organist	Roxanne Groff	Roxanne Groff
Greeters	Dean Thompson	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman	Sharon Fourman
FaceBook Live Recorder	PJ Musser	

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Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Wear a hat when outdoors
MIND: Have a family game night
SPIRIT: Share your faith with someone



This Week @ Trinity – July 5 thru July 12, 2020

Sun, June 5

10:30 am Worship Service

Wed, July 8

6:30 pm Christian Education Team Meeting

Fri, July 10

3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, July 12

10:30 am Worship Service

Upcoming

Wednesday, July 15

6:00 pm – Finance Team Meeting

7:00 pm – Trinity Council Meeting



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 12th
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

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