

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 Exodus
Week 1
October 4, 2020



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- **Prelude** “Lift Him Up; Set My Spirit Free;
Great Is Thy Faithfulness; God Is So Good” **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**
- * **HYMN OF PRAISE** “I Love to Tell the Story” **LBW 390**



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
Refrain
I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry
and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of all ages,

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

October 4, 2020

Page 2 of 15

C: You have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so. We succumb to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

P: Dear people, hear the joyful words that God has forgiven us! Our misdeeds and folly are forgotten; grace and mercy abound. Let us give thanks that we have a compassionate creator!

C: 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 might, You protected and guided your chosen people out of danger into new life. So lead us into the places where we can live and grow as your faithful people, for the sake of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Exodus, Chapters 12 and 13.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or

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boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Chapter 13 ¹The Lord said to Moses: ²Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. ³Moses said to the people, “Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. ⁵When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. ⁶Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the Lord. ⁷Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. ⁸You shall tell your child on that day, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’

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 whose blood washes you clean and redeems your soul for God, amen.

It sure feels great to be back. We had a really fun vacation where we did some amazing things. We hiked around the western rim of the Grand Canyon and got way too close to the edge. We walked on the Grand Canyon Skywalk, a

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horseshoe shaped platform made out of glass that sticks out over the canyon.

When you look down you see just how big a hole in the ground the Canyon is.

You also get a sense of how truly grand the God is who made all of it... It's also

good to be back here inside our beautiful sanctuary where we all have so many

wonderful memories of weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and even the sad

memories of saying our farewells to loved ones, all these precious memories, right

here within these walls. This church, and the memories made here, have been one

of the major influences that formed you into the person you are today. Many of the

Churches I've attended in the past were much younger than Trinity. The Church I

served in West Milton turned 50 when I was there. My home congregation in

Fairborn is even younger than that. In those two congregations there are numerous

founding members still living. They can tell and retell the story of how their

congregation began. My friend Skip, whose mother was the organist at Saint

Mark's Lutheran Church in Fairborn used to tell me that on her final Sunday

playing for Saint Mark's, before starting the very next week at Abiding Christ, her

final sending hymn was "On Our Way Rejoicing." The scars from that church split

were still healing when they celebrated their 50th anniversary a couple of years ago.

Saint Mark's closed its doors permanently this year. I'll bet the hurt feelings and

the musings of what might have been if the congregation could have held itself

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together those years ago are still present in the hearts of the St Mark's congregation today. For good or bad our experiences shape who we are today.

The story of the Passover is one of those defining stories that formed a group of despairing people into God's Chosen Nation. The story of Passover is technically called a story of redemption, but it's also a formative story that gives the Hebrew people a common narrative, not only of the birth of a nation, this story creates the People of God. Set within the larger story of the Exodus from slavery to the freedom of the promised land, the story of the Passover we just read is a small part of the greater story of how God liberated these chosen people from their bondage to slavery in Egypt. At a family Passover meal today the youngest child will ask, "Why is this night different from every other night? Why do we recline, eat roasted lamb, and bitter herbs. Why must we eat with our coats and hats on? All these questions lead the oldest member of the Jewish family to retell the story of the Exodus of the Hebrew people out of their bondage by the mighty acts of God. Before we pick up the story, God has already sent nine plagues in an effort to convince the Egyptian King to release the Hebrews so they could worship the Lord God. Pharaoh, of course refused all nine attempts. Finally, God gives Moses and Aaron the instructions for this Passover meal. The crucial part of the instruction includes this odd requirement to paint the door posts with the blood of a blemish

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free lamb, slaughtered in the prime of its life. They are ordered to eat the flesh of this perfect sacrificial lamb and to not leave any leftovers. That night when the angel of death passed through Egypt and took every firstborn from every family, even the family of Pharaoh. Every firstborn was killed except those families where the blood of the perfect sacrificial lamb was painted over the door.

The part of the story I read today was actually written much later in the life of those same Hebrew people. It was written when they were in captivity in Babylon. Bible scholars say these instructions were written down by a Jewish priest to help the Jewish people remember all God had done. The detailed instructions for how and when to celebrate this Passover meal continued to form and reinforce the faith of those Jewish people even though they were exiled from their homeland and the temple where they had so many memories was destroyed. This reenactment every year of the Passover not only united them, the ritual gave them order and something to put their faith in, despite their current situation where they were foreigners in a foreign land. The symbolic meal keeps them connected to each other, but also keeps them connected to their faith traditions and their ancestors in the faith. Even more than all of that, the Passover meal keeps the Jewish nation connected to God. They remember and participate in the liberation of their people every time they eat the Passover meal.

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In the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke Jesus was eating the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was betrayed. In our Church calendar that would put it on what we call today, Maundy Thursday. On the same day the ancient Hebrew people slaughtered their perfect, blemish free sacrificial lamb, whose blood protected them from the angel of death, Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it for all to eat. After eating, he took the common cup of wine and also blessed it. Then he gave it to them to drink. Jesus said this new covenant in his blood was for the forgiveness of sins. The blood of the lamb spared those ancient Jewish families from experiencing the death of all their firstborn children, but the blood of Jesus spares all of mankind from the wages of sin which is permanent separation from our God. Among other names, we call this new ritual given to us by Jesus himself, the Last Supper because it was the last time Jesus would celebrate the Passover with his disciples. This new Last Supper, instituted by Jesus, does many of the same things for us Christians as the Passover does for Jewish people. It forms our faith. It unites us with all other Christians from every place and every time, including all the beings in heaven, who, according to the Book Revelations, drop what they are doing and gather around the throne to worship God, every time we celebrate the Last Supper of Jesus. In faith we're eating the flesh and drinking the blood of our Paschal Lamb and that

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very precious blood of Jesus washes us clean from all our sins. Jesus was our perfect sacrificial lamb, slaughtered in the prime of his life to redeem us from the consequences of our Sin. One of the prayer options we have in our Lutheran Communion Liturgy says we believe by partaking of this sacred meal we are proclaiming Jesus is Lord over everything, even death itself. So, as often as we celebrate Holy Communion we are proclaiming Jesus death and resurrection until he comes again. It's a way of participating in the very actions that saved us and that formed us into the Church, which is the earthly Body of Christ.

How many of you have participated in a Christian Seder Meal? I try to offer it every other year for our Confirmation families so that our confirmands can get the sense of our deep roots in the Jewish faith. I love hosting the Christian Seder because in one evening we get to participate in the Bible's two biggest and best stories of redemption. In a Christian Seder, we eat the flesh of a lamb that represents the lamb sacrificed for the Hebrew people's freedom to worship, the lamb that paid the price for the Jewish people to escape their bondage to slavery. Just like the Passover meal forms the people of God, the Chosen ones, into a community, the Last Supper or Holy Communion, forms us into the Christian faith community. Just like the Passover meal redeemed the Jewish people from their bondage to slavery, Holy Communion redeems us from our bondage to sin, death,

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and the devil. Instead of consuming a blemish free lamb that won the Hebrew people's freedom from old Pharaoh, the flesh and blood of Jesus takes away our sin and brings us into a right relationship with God.

If a pregnant lamb dies in childbirth, a good shepherd will take the motherless baby lamb and wash it in a small amount of the blood of another healthy mother lamb. Because this healthy lamb can smell its own blood on the newborn, it will take the motherless baby and raise it as its own. I believe that's exactly what happens when we participate in Holy Communion. We are washed in the blood of our savior, Jesus, and because of Jesus' righteousness, because Jesus was our sinless, blemish free sacrificial lamb, God recognizes us as God's own sons and daughters. God doesn't smell the stench of our sin, he only sees and smells his Son, Jesus.

Yes, it is so good to be back here in this place where our individual stories connect with the overarching story of God's people. May this story of the Passover remind us of our roots deep in the Jewish faith. May our participation in the sacred rituals and sacraments, along with our sisters and brothers in Christ from every time and every place unite us with each other and with all the saints who have gone before us. As we are joined with this vast cloud of witnesses, may our

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own faith be formed and strengthened so we never tire of proclaiming Jesus life, death, and resurrection, until he comes again. Come quickly Lord Jesus, Amen!

Silence for reflection may follow

*** 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 claim us powerfully as your own and set your mark of mercy upon us in the promise of our baptism. You continue to remind us of who and whose we are in the sacrament of Holy Communion. May we respond in gratitude and truly live as redeemed and beloved children. Almighty God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For innocent victims and those caught in the crossfire of conflict, we pray your comfort, healing and protection, O Lord. Help all who deal with traumatic memories and difficult histories to find renewal and a way forward. Be with our president and all others who are suffering through a Covid-19 infection. Give them strength and healing. Bring them all back to the fullness of health...

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October 4, 2020

Page 11 of 15

Almighty God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: On this commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, help us to cherish and protect the diverse and countless creatures that populate the earth, as well as the lands, seas and habitats in which they live. Guide us to take a responsible place as one species among many who share the planet. Almighty God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all who still suffer in modern day slavery, give your support and healing, and assist the efforts of all who work to abolish these inhumane practices. Be also with those who are in need of your Holy Spirit's power, especially...
Almighty God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We rejoice for the life of all the saints who have gone before us. Inspire us each to offer ourselves wherever we can, in whatever ways we can. Almighty God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: We belong to you, O God, and trust that you will answer our prayers in the way that fulfills your will, for the sake of your son Jesus, the Anointed One.

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 a ceramic flower pot located near the back door of the church.

P: Let us pray for God's blessing on these gifts. We belong to you, O God, and trust that you will answer our prayers in the way that fulfills your will, for the sake of your son Jesus, the Anointed One,

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.

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October 4, 2020

Page 12 of 15

C: And also with you.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", let us pray as Jesus taught... I'll lead the prayer and invite you to pray silently, trusting God hears what is on your heart...

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: Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" LBW 551**



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

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

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October 4, 2020


Page 13 of 15

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Watch for children at bus stops
MIND: Use your imagination
SPIRIT: Write a letter to yourself



Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 11th
Exodus 32:1-14

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.



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This Week @ Trinity – October 4 thru October 11, 2020

Sun, October 4

- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 7:30 pm Confirmation Class on ZOOM

Wed, October 7

- 6:30 pm WELCA Meeting
- 7:00 pm Trinity Bible/Book Club via ZOOM

Fri, October 9

- 9:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting
- 3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, October 11

- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 7:30 pm Confirmation Class on ZOOM

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ARE DUE BY OCT. 14. You may mail or drop them off to the church office or email them to secretary@pitsburgtlc.org.

COMING SOON!

- **October 25, 2020 - Catechism Class Confirmation**
- **Also on October 25, 2020 – Trinity’s Fall Festival:** This year our Festival will be an all outdoors event for our Trinity family and their guests. It will be from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and will feature Joseph, a superb children’s entertainer and singer. We will also have gift bags for each child.
- **TRINITY ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 1, 2020 following the worship service.**