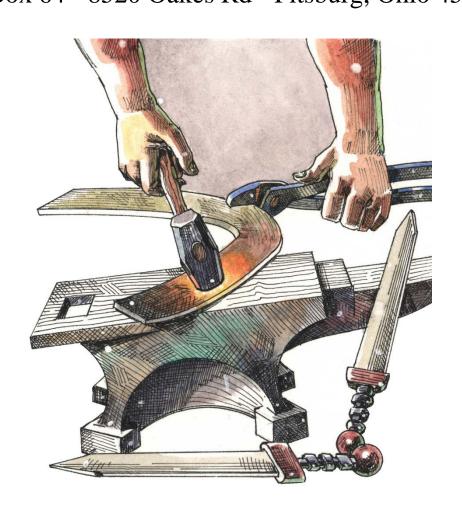
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4 November 20, 2022



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

Prelude Roxanne Groff

Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell

• Welcome Pr Mel Musser

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, 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 have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have taken what is not ours, and justified our actions. We have turned away from your wisdom. We have not done justice, loved kindness, nor walked humbly with you. Forgive us for the harms we have caused through word and action, and restore us to the joy of following your will for us.

P: God knows our every weakness and yet loves us without ceasing. Rejoice and be glad, for the God of grace and mercy forgives you all your sins, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



* Please stand if able

November 20, 2022

• Please be seated Page 2 of 18

* 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 wisdom, the prophet Isaiah foretold the time of peace, when weapons would be turned into tools for farming. Give us hope that peace is possible in our war-torn world, and the courage to work for it.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: How God Transforms Us Object: Transformer Toy or Picture

Scripture: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

Good morning boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. Do any of you like to watch the Transformer Movies? You know those ones where the car turns into a fighting robot... I brought one with me today. This guy is from the Transformer movie Bumble Bee. Do any of you know how to transform this into the fighting robot? Here, give it a try...

In our Bible story for today, a man called Isaiah saw a vision of the future where God would transform people. Not like how you can transform that car into a robot and then back again, but how God can change us from the inside out. God

* Please stand if able November 20, 2022

wants to change us from being mean and sometimes even violent to one another into people who love one another. I think that's a pretty good transformation!

Here's how I think God's transformation works for us. First God loves us. Even when we don't live the way God wants us to, God still loves us and forgives us, every single time. The more God forgives us the more we want to be like that too. So, pretty soon we're not as mean and nasty to our sisters and brothers or to our friends as we were before we first experienced God's unconditional love. That's a pretty big word. Do you know what unconditional means? It means God doesn't make you do certain things before God loves you. God will always love you, not matter what else happens in your life. That means you don't have to transform yourself into a nice and kind person before God can love you. God already loves you beyond your wildest dreams!

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for loving us so much! Please transform us and the whole world into the kind and loving people you made us to be. In Jesus' Name we pray, amen.

• SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Isaiah, Chapters 36, 37 and 2. C: Glory to you O Lord.

36In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of ¹Judah and captured them. ²The king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. He stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field. ³And there came out to him Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder.

¹³Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. ¹⁵Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the Lord by saying, The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' ¹⁶Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make your peace with me and come out to me; then everyone of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, ¹⁷until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. ¹⁸Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, The Lord will save us. Has any of the gods of the nations saved their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹Where

* Please stand if able

November 20, 2022

are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? ²⁰Who among all the gods of these countries have saved their countries out of my hand, that the Lord should save Jerusalem out of my hand?""

When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. ²And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ³They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. ⁴It may be that the Lord your God heard the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left." ⁵When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, ⁶Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. ⁷I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

R: 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 Prince of Peace

and the King of Kings, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

* Please stand if able

November 20, 2022

• Please be seated

Page 5 of 18

We have finally arrived at this, the last Sunday of the Church Calendar. This has been traditionally called Christ the King Sunday. Next week we enter into the church season of Advent when we focus on the coming birth of Jesus. That's not what we've about today though. Today we're thinking about what it will be like when Jesus comes again. Jesus said he would come again on the clouds with all the heavenly hosts. What a grand and glorious day that will be!

Looking far ahead, Isaiah the Old Testament prophet understood the implications of what it means for all people when that glorious day arrives. In the chapters we read first, Isaiah was describing the attack and near fall of the Southern Kingdom of Israel. If you remember, the Assyrian army utterly defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the year 722 BC. They had every intention of taking the southern kingdom of Judah as well. As our scripture says they had surrounded every city and town in Judah and thought it was only a matter of time before every city fell into their hands. (SLIDE)

They were so confident in their victory they sent out the Rabshakeh to goad King Hezekiah into surrender. The Rabshakeh was the King's Chief of Staff. This was the title of the King's Chief Cup-Bearer and most important advisor to the

^{*} Please stand if able

King. What King Sennacherib didn't count on was the power of the prayers of a repentant people. (SLIDE)

Starting with the King of Judah, King Hezekiah, all the people of Judah prayed to God and asked the prophet Isaiah to intercede on their behalf. Intercede he did! Isaiah told the king's servants not to worry, God had a plan.

Though it is clear the blockade of Jerusalem ended without significant fighting, how it was resolved and what stopped Sennacherib's massive army from overwhelming the city is uncertain. The Biblical account of the end of Sennacherib's attack on Jerusalem holds that though Hezekiah's soldiers manned the walls of the city, ready to defend it against the Assyrians, something called the

(SLIDE) "destroying angel," sent by the Lord God, annihilated Sennacherib's army, killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in front of Jerusalem's gates. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus describes the operation as an Assyrian failure due to a "multitude"

of field-mice" descending upon the Assyrian camp, devouring crucial material such as quivers and bowstrings, leaving the Assyrians unarmed and causing them to flee. It's possible the story of the mice infestation is a reference to some kind of disease striking the Assyrian camp, possibly the septicemic plague. In either case, God's people didn't lift a finger in the battle. When Hezekiah and the Judeans saw

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what God had done, defeating the massive Assyrian army without having to fight, they must have thought they were a pretty powerful nation. Even though God had saved Jerusalem as an answer to the prayers and repentance of the King and the people, many of their towns and even fortified cities had been seized and destroyed. King Hezekiah realized it was his own anti-Assyrian policies and alliances with the enemies of Assyria that led to the invasion. King Hezekiah had not paid the tribute demanded by Sennacherib for several years. After Sennacherib withdrew his siege forces from around Jerusalem, Hezekiah began to pay the tribute once again to appease the Assyrians. They demanded ever greater amounts of gold and other commodities in exchange for peace. This arraignment lasted for over 100 years, until the time of King Nebuchadnezzar and the rise of the Babylonian army. It was the Babylonians who in the end defeated Judah and took Jerusalem in the year 587 BC. Once again the primary outside cause of the invasion was the King's decision to withhold the paying of tribute to the King of Babylon. It looks like the saying it's always about the money held true even way back in ancient times as it still does today. On the inside, the Judeans had once again turned away from the Lord God. They intermarried with people of other pagan religions and followed other gods. They even entered into a mutual treaty agreement with Egypt of all nations... Once The Lord removed the protection he provided, Judah was easy pickings for their far more powerful neighbor.

^{*} Please stand if able

As interesting as all these ancient accounts of siege warfare and God's intervention, I still wonder about the vision of Isaiah from the second chapter where he envisions a day when all the nations will stream to the great mountain of the Lord, Mount Zion. Isaiah tells us there will come a day when the nations will stream to Zion and all will hammer their weapons of war into farming implements.



(SLIDE) I wonder about this vision because it doesn't seem to be any closer now than it was when Isaiah first uttered it some 2700 years ago. I mean, I know God always plays the

long game, but you'd think in 2700 years we'd at least be able to see some progress toward this goal. My wonderings come down to this: what is keeping the nations of the world from streaming to Mount Zion? What will it take for the nations to stop making implements of destruction and turn their efforts to making implements for the production of food for all people instead?

Chapter 2 offers a vision of what the life of people who are redeemed by God's grace will look like. In a world that's becoming increasingly polarized, Isaiah's vision tells us that, in the end, The Lord has invited all people into his dwelling place. Not all will choose to come, but those who seek God's instruction and want to be in his presence are welcome, regardless of the differences they may have had before. Isaiah invites us to imagine a world where boundaries have been erased and all become one in God's presence.

^{*} Please stand if able

Hezekiah and the Judeans repented and prayed for deliverance and God saved them from the horrible defeat at the hands of the Assyrian army. Through their own efforts and offering of good will and tribute to the Kings of this world, Judah bought a tenuous peace with their superpower neighbor. They must have thought they could do anything! Unfortunately, their willingness to kowtow to foreign kings didn't last. Neither did their willingness to follow the ways of the Lord their God. They soon forgot just how amazing and powerful this Lord their God really is... Soon they were looking to the god's of their neighbors once again and turning away from the God who had rescued them over and over again. It wasn't long, a little over 100 years when God allowed another superpower to invade. This time there would be no miraculous rescue.

In second Chronicles, chapter 7, God says, "¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." It sounds so easy... All we have to do is humble ourselves, pray, seek God above all else, and give up our evil ways... Ahh... If only...

If only we could do these things then we could rely on our own effort and good deeds to make us righteous. If only we could do these things, well, we certainly wouldn't have any need for God to save us... Sadly, we can't accomplish

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this on our own. We do in fact need God. We need our Savior, Jesus to rescue us once and for all from our sin, from the devil, and from death itself.

I'm thankful I have the time and the inclination to wonder about some of the marvelous promises God makes to us. As far as this promise about the nations streaming to Zion and never learning or studying about war any more, my best guess is that's going to take Jesus coming again in all His Glory and with all the Angels and archangels, and all the heavenly hosts before that time of eternal peace and love can come to fruition.

This vision of Isaiah's from Chapter 2 shows us what is possible when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. That day has not arrived yet... In the meantime, what are those of us who love the Lord supposed to do? I for one can learn from the words of the one who wrote the historical books of the Chronicles and learn to be more humble. I can certainly pray for that kind of eternal peace way more than I currently do. I can listen to God's Word spoken in the Bible, in our songs and hymns, and from other Christians when they tell me I'm out of step or my pride has taken over my thoughts and actions. In short, I can try to live, to the best of my ability, according to God's Word. Another prophet of the Lord who was a contemporary of Isaiah and also witnessed the devastation of the Assyrian army famously said, "what does the LORD require of you but to do

^{*} Please stand if able

justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? That's from Micah the 6^{th} chapter, verse 8.

May the Lord God be patient with us even when we forget to ask for the forgiveness we all need each and every day. May the Lord not deal with us according to our deeds, but according to His love, mercy, and grace. By God's grace, may we learn God's justice and love. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

• SPECIAL MUSIC

"Thankful"

Larry Harter

* 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.

November 20, 2022

^{*} Please stand if able

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Certain of your justice and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Faithful God, you proved your loyalty to the people of Judah by delivering them from Assyrian conquest. Remind us daily that you are the great deliverer, even when we are unable to recognize it. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Your faithfulness sustains all creation. Teach us to nurture your creation so that it can sustain life for generations to come. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Strengthen our leaders, that they might stand up to injustice and lead us forward in the way of peace. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bring healing to all who suffer ailments of body, spirit, and mind, (especially). Do for all who are sick what we cannot do for ourselves. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Help us to live in peace with our neighbors both near and far. Teach us to live with justice, mercy, and love. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember all your saints, O God, who proclaimed your action in their lives. May we join them in trusting you, until we see them in the flesh. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: We lift all for whom we pray into your loving arms, O God, in the name of Jesus, 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

* Please stand if able November 20, 2022

- the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to you can make your offering online.
- P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God of peace, you call us to be the light of the world. We offer these gifts that, with them, you might shine the light of hope on all who are in need.

C: Amen.

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 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

* Please stand if able November 20, 2022

• Please be seated Page 14 of 18

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.

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: All the nations stream to the house of the Lord to turn away from war and strife. We, too, have a place at this holy table. Come, join with the whole human family in the feast of God's peace and justice.

• 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... We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

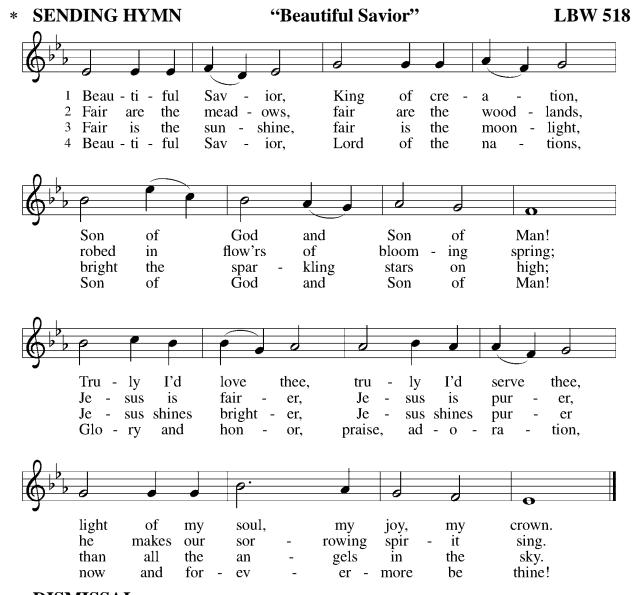
• ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Please stand if able November 20, 2022

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.



* 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!

* Please stand if able

* POSTLUDE Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

<u>SPECIAL OFFERING</u> – There is an additional offering plate in the back for donations that will be sent to a fund for the Florida hurricane victims.

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Take care of your teeth

MIND: Learn some new facts about Thanksgiving history

SPIRIT: Make a list of family members and what makes them special to you



Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 27th Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:3b-19

* Please stand if able

November 20, 2022

• Please be seated Page 17 of 18

This Week @ Trinity - November 20 thru November 27, 2022

Sun, Nov. 20 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting

Wed, Nov. 23 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thurs, Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Day

Fri, Nov. 25 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, Nov. 27 10:30 am Worship Service



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.

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

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

Trinity Contact Info

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