

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 2 Corinthians
Week 5
August 9, 2020



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*** 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: Guiding God,

C: You have shown us how to live a good life, yet we think we can do better on our own. We do not honor you or our neighbors, instead choosing to follow our selfish desires. We long to be free and yet hold others' wrongs against them. Release us from this endless cycle of guilt and poor choices. Restore us to yourself again, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: We are God's beloved children and we have been forgiven! Now live in the joy which this grace provides, and share the good news with others.

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: Powerful God, Your Spirit works daily to bring about your will through the lives of your people. Work in us that we might reflect your principles of love and mercy in all we do, through Jesus our Lord,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 11:2-4

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Luke, Chapter 11.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

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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 announced God's Kingdom on earth, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.

This is our second of four weeks where our theme is the Lord's Prayer. Last week I talked about addressing God as Father. This week we're looking at the petition where we ask for God's kingdom to come. We follow that up by asking that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That's a mighty big ask, would you agree? For God's kingdom to rule over all the earth... First of all, we acknowledge there are two arenas. The earthly arena where we live and the heavenly arena where God sits on his throne and where his will is accomplished perfectly. In this petition we're asking for the same reign of God, that keeps heaven perfect, to come to earth and fix everything here that's broken. Again, I say, that's a mighty big ask...

I mean what would happen to all those good and faithful Hindu people or all the adherents to the Islamic faith... Not to mention our Jewish brothers and sisters. Would God's kingdom include even the atheists? When I think about God's Kingdom coming on a macro scale, like macroeconomics, I get confused and a bit frustrated. So, I prefer to begin by asking myself what the coming of the

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Kingdom of God looks like on a much smaller scale, like in my own life. I've thought about this quite a lot over the past week and really over the years. Here's some of the things I've come up with...

The kingdom of God in my life has been a constant influence to push my attitudes, convictions, and beliefs and my behavior in a certain direction. I'm really happy that I grew up before the internet age. Nowadays everything you think, do, or say is recorded for posterity and can be recalled as easily as a Google search. I confess that I was a jerk in my younger years. In junior high school I was in the group of kids who made fun of everyone who was different from us. We made cruel jokes about those we thought were gay. Back then homosexuality was a taboo and people hid their sexual orientation if they weren't straight. Handicapped kids didn't fair any better. I remember pointing and laughing as they marched by to their special classroom in junior high. For many years I thought God gave me a handicapped daughter out of punishment for my bad behavior. I know now, that's not how God works... If God had anything to do with our daughter's condition, which I doubt, it was to help awaken me to how precious all people are in the eyes of God. So, the first way God's kingdom coming into my life has changed me is that it has made me a much more open and inclusive person

who can see past individual differences and look at each person through eyes of faith given to me as a gift by God.

When God opens your eyes of faith, you see His creation from a whole new and different perspective. I still fight tendencies to always put myself first, thinking I'm better than others. When I act in those ways, I run straight up against God's Kingdom that tells me to humble myself and put others first. Usually just the natural consequences of my bad behavior is enough to get me back where I want to be. I'm pretty certain I'm not the only one who suffers from that affliction. I mean we live in a world that values putting yourself first. It's true no matter what kind of government you live under, either capitalism or communism. You take your pick, they both motivate people to produce out of self-interest. According to the book *Humankind: A Hopeful History*, Rutger Bregman says Capitalism holds the carrot in front of the workers. To get the carrot you work hard. The harder you work the more carrots you get. Communism has the same intention and goal, but uses punishment instead of the carrots. My point is we're all trained, from the time we can understand, that your purpose in life is to produce so you can have a good and comfortable life. Under the kingdom of this world your worth is determined by how much you produce and how much you accumulate. Under the Kingdom of God your value isn't defined by what you produce or how much you earn. Your

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value is defined by God, Our Father who created you, by Jesus Christ who endured torture and spilled his precious blood for you, and by the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you, who enlightens you, and calls you always to be closer to God.

I wonder what the earthly arena could look like if we all truly treated one another as equals, as people of value, as beloved family members. I wonder what the human race could do if all people were valued and loved. It doesn't take much research to see we're far from that utopian goal. Police see criminals as sub-human and more and more today some people see police in the same way. When we lose the ability to see others as equal human beings, it becomes easy to hurt, maim, and even kill them. In the past decade our society seems to be moving in the wrong direction. I'm no sociologist or scientist, but my observations and intuition tell me, the Kingdom of God is just a little further away today than it was just 10 years ago. What can we do to stem this backward slide? God's people can pray! When we say the Lord's Prayer don't just gloss over words you've repeated since you were a child. Remember your own catechism and what you were taught these words mean. When we come to those precious words Thy Kingdom Come stop and really ask yourself what that means to you. Then approach the creator of both arenas, heaven and earth, and ask God to bring His Kingdom into your life.

Ask God to open your eyes of faith to see everyone as your equal, worthy of God's

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love and worthy of your love. Ask God to help you treat those others as you would want to be treated yourself. Pray for the rioters who pillage, loot, and burn. Ask God to enter their hearts and turn them to love, but first look inward. Find compassion for those you thought you could never find common ground. Ask God to open your eyes of faith to see them as God sees them.

Thy Kingdom Come. It is a big ask of God. We're often content to ask for less. We come before God in prayer with a bag full of requests—promotions, pay raises, the car needs a new transmission, and tuition bills are due and student loan payments aren't going to pay themselves... I typically say my prayers as casually as ordering a burger at MiCkie Dees: "I'll have one solved problem and two blessings, cut the hassles, please."

Is that how we've been taught to pray? In prayer we come before the King of kings and Lord of lords. We've just folded our hands and bowed our heads out of reverence for God's holiness. Now, do we open our mouths with the topic of transmissions, bills, promotions, and pay raises? It's not that our wants and desires don't matter to God, but I wonder if we stay down here in the weeds because we're afraid to ask for the really big and important stuff that will change our world. The pay raise is still wanted and the promotion is still desired, but is that the best place to start with God?

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Jesus tells how to begin. “When you pray, pray like this. Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.” It’s pretty simple, but such a big ask... When you say, “Thy kingdom come,” you are inviting the Messiah himself to walk into your world. Come, my King! Take your throne in our land. Be present in my heart. Be present in my office where I work. Come into my marriage, to those I love the most. Be Lord of my family, my fears, and my doubts. This is no feeble request; it’s a bold appeal for God to occupy every corner, every inch, every nook and cranny of your life. It’s a big ask! Who are you to ask so much of God? Who are you to ask God to take control of your world? Well, you are his child, his beloved child, to start with... You are the one Jesus was willing to die for. So, go ahead, ask boldly. Let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need, but let us begin by inviting God’s Kingdom to rule over our world and our lives.

May God’s Kingdom come and may God’s will be done in your life as it is in heaven. May God open your eyes of faith to see how you can help bring God’s Kingdom just a little bit closer. May we all be bold enough to ask for the big stuff, like peace on earth especially between people of different backgrounds and ideologies. May that peace on earth start right here with us. 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: Oh God, when we look at the world, it is easy to see all that does not reflect your vision and be discouraged. Open the eyes of our faith to see others as you see them. Humble us so we can be your people, doing your work here in this arena. May your Kingdom come and may we be the ones you choose to help bring your Kingdom and your will a little bit closer to reality in our lives as it is in heaven. Give us opportunities to use the blessings and the gifts you have given each of us, so that we may be a point of light in the great constellation of Christ's love. Renewing Spirit,

C: Hear our prayer.

**L: As schools prepare to begin a new academic year, be with students, staff and faculty in their work of preparing future citizens, workers, dreamers, artists and inventors to deal with the next generation of issues arising on this earth.
Renewing Spirit,**

C: Hear our prayer.

**L: Your creation groans as it brings forth new life out of the dying and destroyed. Revive us all for a new day on this planet, which is our home and lifeline.
Renewing Spirit,**

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Use us to minister to those in need of all kinds of healing. Send your presence

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to the lost, suffering, and conflicted, and take special care of all those whom we know need your support, especially... Renewing Spirit,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Just as we will one day be gone from this earth, we remember all those who have gone before us, taking inspiration from their example and joy in their memory. Renewing Spirit,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Receive our prayers; answer our deepest cries, and show us exactly where you need each of us to be, in the name of Jesus our savior,

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

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

C: And also with you.

• OFFERING

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Bless and use these gifts, O God, for all your good purposes. Give us vision to offer ourselves and all that we have to your mission of feeding the hungry, healing the broken and serving those in need, for the sake of your kingdom on earth,

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.**

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• **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.

C: **Amen.**

* **SENDING HYMN “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

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

Postlude

“Jesus Did It For Me”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Try to get 8 hours of sleep

MIND: Organize your Photos

SPIRIT: Keep a list of answered prayers



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 – August 23 thru August 30, 2020

Sun, August 23

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

Fri, August 28

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

Sun, August 30

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 30th
Luke 11:2-4



THE GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree inside still has crosses with ideas for items to donate. Open the cross and take the paper with you or take the cross and return it when you drop off your donations. The basket under the tree also has items inside most of the crosses.

The baskets in the corner behind the tree are marked for either WERNLE or WELCA donations. Put your bags in the baskets to help keep the area as neat as possible. We will try to remove your donations ASAP.

THANK YOU!

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We're making School Kits for Lutheran World Relief!

If you don't feel like doing the shopping, Linda Baker says she loves to shop (and Tony affirms how much she loves it 😊). Linda has offered and will be happy to accept any donations. She will purchase what is most needed to make the maximum number of school kits with what donations she receives. If you're like Linda and love to shop, here's the list that goes into a kit:

- 1 - Sturdy drawstring backpack style cloth bag— approximately 14" X 17", w/shoulder straps (handmade)
- 1 - Ruler—30 cm on one side (May have inches on the other side.)
- 1 - Box of Crayons (16 or 24)
- 5 - Unsharpened Pencils w/Erasers
- 1 - Pencil Sharpener
- 1 - 2 1/2" Eraser
- 1 - Pair Blunt Scissors
- 5 - Blue or Black Ball point Pens (No GEL pens)
- 4 - 70 Sheet College or Wide ruled Notebooks



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