

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 3  
July 26, 2020



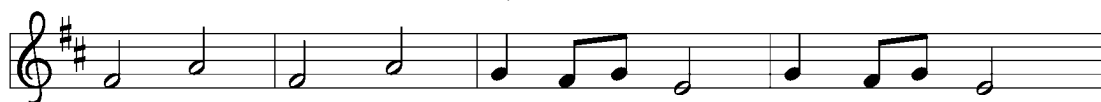
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- **Prelude** “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee; What A Friend;  
It Is No Secret; Oh, How He Loves You and Me” **Roxanne Groff**

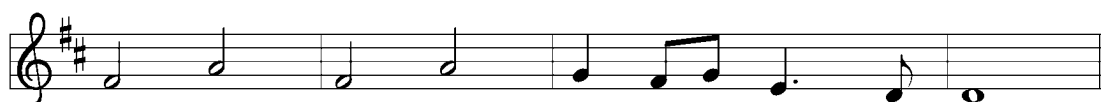
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Lord, Be Glorified”



1	In	my	life,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
2	In	our	song,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
3	In	your	church,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
4	In	your	world,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;



in	my	life,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
in	our	song,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
in	your	church,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
in	your	world,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.

\* **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: Loving God,

**C: When our path becomes difficult, we do not always turn to you. We look for an easy way out. We escape in avoidance and addiction. We forget your promises and seek what does not satisfy. Forgive us and bring us back into the strength of your Spirit.**

P: God is generous and loving and forgiving. Hear and believe that your sins are washed away and that new life is yours through Christ our Lord.

**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.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Eternal God, You have come to make immortal things visible through mortals.  
Use us and our lives to reflect your glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our  
Lord,

C: Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**2 Corinthians 4:1-18**

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

**4** Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup>But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Praise To You, O Christ** (*Spoken*)

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Pr Mel Musser**

**Theme:** You have God's Treasure Inside of You

**Object:** Pottery

**Scripture:** 2 Cor 4:7 - <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

Have any of you ever made a ceramic project? In ceramics, you start out with a lump of clay that you can shape and mold into anything you want. This morning I have here a piece of pottery my daughter Niki made for me when she was in high school. I love this clay cup because if you look closely you can see all the cracks it had before the final glaze was put on and the final time it was baked in the kiln to harden it.

What do you think I could put inside this clay jar? I could fill it with water and use it to drink from. I could fill it with M&Ms and have a snack. I could even put money in it and use it to hold my valuable treasure.

I love this piece of pottery because it reminds me of the scripture lesson for today. Saint Paul who met Jesus after he was resurrected and then traveled around the world spreading the Good News that Jesus Christ is our savior. When people heard the story of Jesus and believed in Him they put their trust in Jesus to save them from their sins. When that happens, even still today we Baptize the person and God makes them a new Christian. I think all of you are already Baptized. When you were Baptized God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside of you. The Holy Spirit is God's greatest gift. It's like God's treasure. Did you know you have God's treasure inside you? It's true! You are sort of like my clay cup if I used it to put my treasure in it.

One big difference between you and this clay pot is that when God put His treasure inside of you, God wants you to share it with everyone you know. It's not like a piggy bank where you store up your treasure, you are created to give away God's treasure and here's a little secret... The more of God's treasure you give away, the more God gives you. Isn't it great to know you can't run out of God's love?

I'm so happy we were able to have our Children's message once again. I hope you all have a great week. Before you leave here today, make sure you get

your Vacation Bible School Home Kit. I hope you have lots of fun with them and learn a lot about God and His love for you. Let's close with a prayer...

Heavenly Father, Thank you for filling us with your greatest treasure, your Holy Spirit! Help us to find ways we can share your love with others. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

- **SERMON**

**Pr Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the face of God's

Glory and our Treasure, Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.

We're already into the third week of our Sermon Series on Second Corinthians this summer is flying by! If you hadn't already noticed, we skipped chapter three and moved on to Chapter four. In the part we skipped over, Paul compared the Law of Moses, which guided the Jewish faith to salvation, with the Gospel Good News of Jesus Christ. In his comparison, Paul laid out basic tenets of the Christian faith, concluding the Gospel of the Grace of God is for all people and is far superior to attempting to reach salvation through the keeping of the Law.

So today, our examination of these verses from chapter four begins with Paul's further defense of this ministry he has been proclaiming. He wants the Corinthians to know he is an Apostle only by the grace of God. This might be a line we often skip over, but I want to take a moment to remember who Paul is and why people might be skeptical of his message and the sincerity of his ministry. Before Paul was Paul, he was Saul the zealous Pharisee who persecuted this new

faith called Christianity. In the book of Acts, Saul held the coats and stood by nodding his approval while an angry mob stoned Stephen, Christianity's first martyr. Later, when he was on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus where he intended to hunt down more Christians and have them killed, Jesus stopped him on the road. Saul was blinded by the light of Jesus, sent into a nearby town for instructions, and was then given his sight back. During this conversion and commissioning Saul's name was changed to Paul, but everyone still knew who he was and remembered how much he wanted to put an end to this newfangled Christian fad. So, before people even heard a single word about Jesus or the Gospel, Paul had to convince them of his authority and his sincerity regarding the message he proclaimed. Because he always talked about himself, some people misunderstood his message and accused him of making the Gospel all about Paul. Another thing we need to remember is that Paul actually did suffer a great deal because of his proclamation of the Gospel. He was beaten, arrested, shipwrecked and imprisoned for the sake of the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Finally, he was beheaded outside the city limits of Rome. Paul sacrificed so much to bring the message of God's grace to the Gentiles. It grieved him when people wrote him off and discounted his testimony and his witness about Jesus.

No one likes being written off, as if somehow, you're flawed and incapable of change for the better. That's why it's so important to forgive the mistakes people make and focus on encouraging one another in positive ways. When children are small, they make a lot of mistakes. If parents only focused on those mistakes and missteps, most children would grow up seriously dysfunctional. It's called the self-fulfilling prophecy. Tell someone they're bad over and over and pretty soon, guess what, they turn out to be bad. On the other hand, tell them over and over how good they are and find positive things to reinforce good behavior and the exact opposite happens, most of the time they can change for the better...

Paul, I'm sure, had to deal with his former way of life when he persecuted Christians. After he met the risen Lord, Jesus, on the road to Damascus, and after he became a believer, it took a lot of convincing to get those early believers to trust him at all. I'm sure quite a few people wrote him off. Even in his letters to the Corinthians, Paul still had to defend his role as an apostle, an eyewitness of Jesus, sent by Jesus, to proclaim the good news of forgiveness through Jesus.

Even though Paul had to defend himself, he made it clear that defending himself was not his main goal. He was there to preach Christ. As Paul said, "...we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." Jesus is Lord. Paul was only a servant. Any reference

Paul made to himself had to be understood with these facts in mind. Jesus is the one who was present at the creation of the world. Jesus is the one who is true God. Jesus is the one who forgives us through his death on the cross and his resurrection. If there is any good in us, it is Jesus shining through us. If we accomplish anything for God's Kingdom, it is Christ working in us. Christ Jesus was Paul's sure defense because Christ Jesus forgave him and called him in spite of all Paul had done. Jesus re-created Saul into Paul and He makes us new as well. This is why Paul's words now shout for joy as they declare to you and me that "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." God's light shines in you!

Further, God did not, has not, and will not write us off. He will not give up on us even though we may be tempted to give up on ourselves. I've been tempted to write myself off so many times saying, "this is just the way I am, I will never amount to anything. I'll never be good enough. I'm like the pottery that the Old Testament talks about that the potter throws away and smashes. I just cannot break my wicked habits." It's easy for us to imagine God has already given up on us, that there's no hope. Yet God can get pretty far with an old cracked and broken clay jar. The literal translation from the Greek is an Earthen Vessel... He can do a



lot with a clay pot made from the dust of the earth! We may feel like we have been flattened, crushed, and torn, “But,” as Paul says, “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

I get the impression Paul is talking about clay pots that have not been dried in a kiln. They’re still bendable, still able to be formed and molded and shaped by the Potter, even though the process may be painful. “God’s not done with me yet,” as the saying goes. He has not written me off. Neither has he written you off. Paul continues by saying, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” Those are pretty amazing words considering all the hardships he’s been through. On the one hand they clear up the false notion that nothing painful ever happens to Christians. On the other hand, they show us there’s more to life than we can see with our eyes or even understand with our minds. Even if we should die, as believers in Christ we are not abandoned by Him nor destroyed. God is waiting to bring us home for the sake of His Only Begotten Son, our Savior.

Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is able to identify some of the reasons for his suffering. He is a jar of clay with a purpose, and so are we. It’s the ultimate example of what’s inside being the thing that counts. Our outward distress and our weakness, even to the point of death, only serve to emphasize the

treasure is within us, the life of Christ, the death and resurrection of Christ, the power of Christ's forgiveness, the awesome wonder of His love. We are just pottery, so to speak, but inside we've been given this treasure, the gift of faith, to believe in and trust in a Savior who stubbornly refuses to write us off. We believe in Him and trust in Him. It's not our wisdom or our strength or our power that we proclaim. Rather, we declare the glory of God. We kneel down in our weakness so that others can see Jesus. We appear ordinary in order that others can see how extraordinary God's love is in Jesus Christ. God can get pretty far with a clay jar.

Clay is special, not because of what it is but because of what comes into it from the outside, because of what it can hold. It can be used to make containers for some pretty special things. In the waters of holy baptism, God fills us with His Spirit, gives us faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, puts his name on us, and says, "I'm not going to write you off."

Maybe your life feels like a cracked and broken clay pot right now. The good news is that God can fix even broken pottery. Remember, God can go pretty far with a clay jar. Jesus took on our human frailty. He entered this world as one of us. He knows what it's like to be a clay pot. He knows what it's like to be tested by every kind of trial. He knows what it's like to be crushed, broken, and forsaken. He did all of that for you, so the Potter could know His pottery inside

and out, and so the Potter could love His pottery inside and out. You are special, not just because I say so, but because of what God put into you. With his strong, yet loving hands, God is forming you, as a person who is already forgiven and made new, into the person, the servant, He wants you to be. We have this treasure in jars of clay just waiting to get out. May your treasure be set free and to allow God's Glory, the shining face of Jesus, to be seen in you. 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.**

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➤ *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: When we feel weak, it is then that you make us strong in your Spirit, sufficient for the tasks which you have given us. Teach us to lean on your unfailing strength.  
God of Power,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Guide all parents and those who serve as guardians for children and other vulnerable people. Give them wisdom to love, mentor, and prepare their loved ones to be kind and wise adults. God of Power,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Just as our bodies are constantly renewed and healed, so the earth renews itself with new growth out of the old, producing new life out of death. Make us partners in the restoration of creation that all may live and thrive in peace. God of Power,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: It is frustrating, O Lord, when our physical bodies no longer do what we wish they could, or what they once were able to do. Give us your serenity to accept our changing nature and to find new and joyful ways of adapting and living into the realities of this life. We continue to pray to you for help in coping with the Covid 19 virus. Please speed a vaccine and heal all those afflicted. Grant wisdom to all

those in authority to know how to reopen schools and businesses without increasing the spread of this pandemic. Give each of us the determination to continue doing all those things that help mitigate the spread of this disease. Help us stay socially distant while at the same time feeling connected to our community. Send your healing power this day to all who are sick or suffering, especially be with... God of Power,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: As Timothy, Titus, and Silas dedicated their lives to your mission, so may we find our joy in serving you with the best we have been given. God of Power,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other petitions may be offered.*

L: You are our treasure, O Lord, and in you we place our trust. Hear these prayers and strengthen us to keep serving you day by day, for the sake of Christ, **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: Accept and bless the gifts which your children present to you in gratitude for the blessings which you have also given us. May our time on this earth be spent in service to your world in need, and in glory to you, O God,

**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**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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**\* 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                      “Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;  
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;  
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -  
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,  
 set us free here, by the truth you now bring us.  
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*  
 Shine on me, shine on me:  
 Shine on me, shine on me:

**\* DISMISSAL**

**P:** Depart in Christ's Love.

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

**Postlude**

**"If That Isn't Love"**

**Roxanne Groff**

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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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:** Cut down on sugary drinks

**MIND:** Try Sudoku

**SPIRIT:** Reflect on your life



#### 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 stand if able
- Please be seated



**This Week @ Trinity – July 26 thru August 2, 2020**

**Sun, July 26**

10:30 am    Worship Service

**Fri, July 31**

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

**Sun, August 2**

10:30 am    Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>  
2 Corinthians 5:1-21



Please remember --- it is most important that we follow the guidelines and keep a safe distance during our outdoor service. Please be sure to keep a distance of 6 feet between you and others who are not in your immediate family. We need to be a good example for anyone who might be watching how we do our service and we need to keep our Trinity family safe.

**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 neat as possible. We will try to remove your donations ASAP.

**THANK YOU!**

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

**HOLY COMMUNION IS COMING  
NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020**



- 
- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated



- 
- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated



## **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

