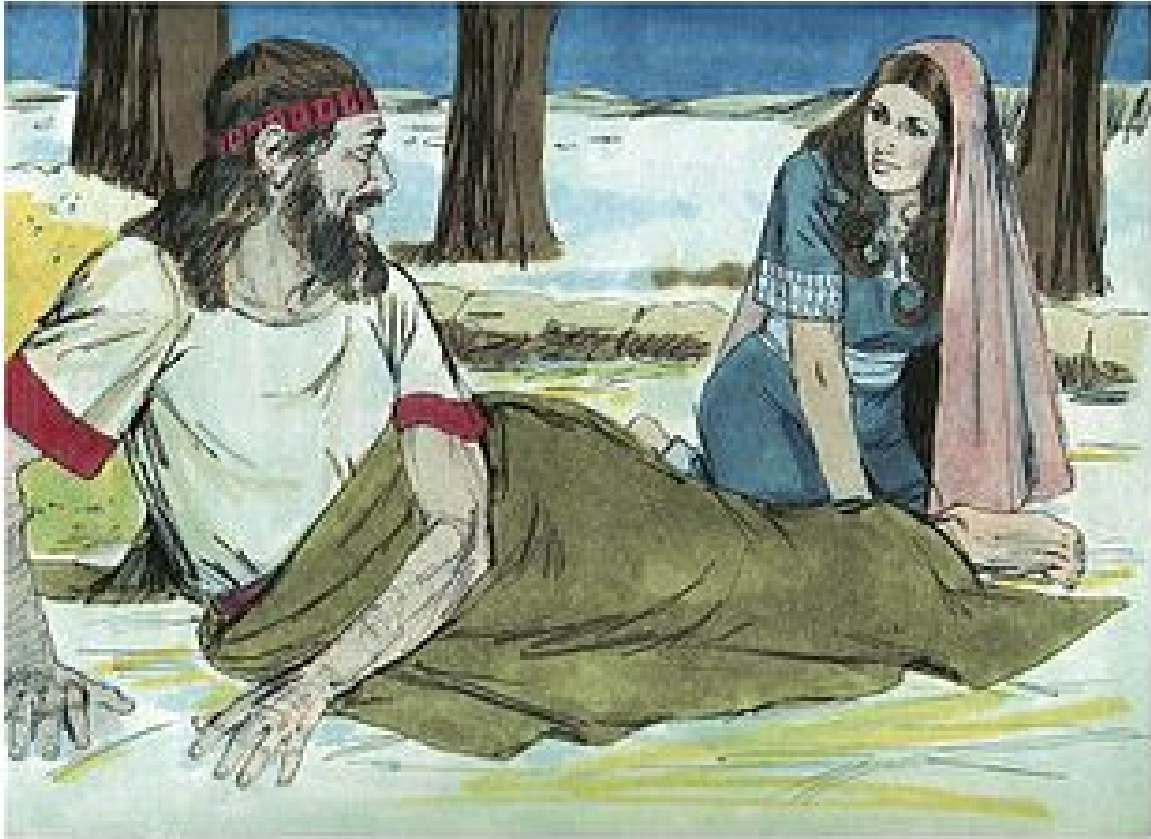


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Ruth 3

August 28, 2022



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



• **Prelude**

Darrell Fryman

• **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: Faithful God,

C: We are not always quick to claim you as our God. We do not show care for one another. We fail to see all people as your people, and hurt one another with our actions or lack of action. Forgive us our sins, and give us the same fierce love for our neighbors that Ruth had for Naomi.

P: God, who calls and sustains, forgives you all your sins. Go forth in the confidence of God's loving care, in Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise Him, Praise Him"**



*1. Praise Him, praise Him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren; God is



love, God is love. Praise Him, praise Him,



all ye lit - tle chil - dren, God is love, God is love.

- *2. Love Him, love Him
- 3. Thank Him, thank Him
- 4. Serve Him, serve Him

* Please stand if able

August 28, 2022

• Please be seated

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*** 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.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of lovingkindness, You call us into relationship with one another, blessing families and communities for the good of all. Give us the power to uphold and protect the bonds that make us one in you, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marge Warner

• KINDNESS BARS AND BUTTONS

Trinity Children

• SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth 3

Robby Arling

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Ruth, Chapter 3.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

¹⁰He said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. ¹²But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. ¹³Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the Lord lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you.

¹⁵Then he said, "Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. ¹⁶She came to her mother-in-law, who said, "How did things go with you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷saying, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, 'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

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

- **KINDNESS BIBLE VERSES**

Trinity Children

- Be kind. (Robby Arling)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32 (Lexie Angles)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:18 (Miles Baker)
- Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (Micah Angles)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (Jackson Baker)
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Corinthians 13:4 (Carlee Kemp)
- Clothe yourself with kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12 (Stephen Angles)
- Do not let kindness and truth leave you. Tie them around your neck. Write them upon your heart. Proverbs 3:3 (Colton Groff)

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who showed us what true kindness looks like, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

I can't believe Rally Day is here already! It seems like just yesterday we were doing the Children's Christmas Program and now summer is already over and the kids go back to school this week. I think the fair was a huge success. It'll be just a few more weeks and our farmers will be back out in the fields. I pray for a good harvest.

Time sure has a way of slipping away from us... We're already in the third chapter of Ruth and it was a good harvest for Boaz and all the farmers of Israel. When we last saw Ruth, she was in the fields gleaning the leftover grains of barley under the watchful eye of her dead husband's relative Boaz. The famine that drove

Naomi, her husband, Elimelek, and their two sons from Israel to Moab was over. The war that had raged during the time of Gideon has ended. Prosperity has once again returned to Judah and to God's people. Naomi, who had lost so much, her husband and her only two sons has begun to realize that despite all the tragedy she's had to face, her life might be starting to improve a little bit... Our story picks up today with Boaz, a distant relative of Naomi's dearly departed husband, having completed the harvest. He and his workers are separating the grain from the chaff on the threshing floor. This was all manual labor. They would throw the wheat or barley up in the air and the night wind would blow the chaff away while the heavier grain would fall to the floor. The workers would then go onto the threshing floor and continue to separate the good from the bad grains and other field debris. It was hard work and they would work well into the night.

At some point Boaz fell asleep right there on the threshing floor. Things were looking up for Boaz and for the two women who had returned from the far country of Moab to try to eek out a life back in Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem. It seems like Boaz was attracted to Ruth, but he never expressed his interest in her because he was not Naomi's closest next of kin. That was the custom back then. If a woman's husband passed away, the closest next of kin would be obligated to take the widow into his family and care for her for the rest of her life. Now taking in the young, lovely, and hard working Ruth would not have posed any problem,

but Ruth came with some additional responsibilities. She came with a built in mother-in-law... There would be no separating the two women who had both suffered and lost so much. Because of her loyalty to Naomi and her faithfulness to the God of Israel Ruth was blessed to find this benefactor, Boaz.

As I said the economy of Bethlehem and all of Israel was picking up and Naomi saw this as her change to be a matchmaker between Ruth and Boaz. It was her idea to send Ruth to Boaz that night after he had finished putting the grain up into the silos and had eaten the celebratory meal, and drunk his fill of wine. This wasn't some torrid fling, but the common custom for an eligible woman to ask for her intended spouse to "cover" her. This was the ancient way of asking for Boaz to marry her... Boaz must have been extremely flattered. After all he was an older man and probably a widower himself. He had no children of his own to leave his land and wealth. Ruth was an upright woman. She was extremely loyal to Naomi and Boaz was smitten. So, although we don't know for certain what happened between Boaz and Ruth on that night in question, what we do know is that Ruth was the first to raise the question of getting married. She asked Boaz to cover her with his cloak, a metaphor for getting hitched... Boaz was hesitant at first only because he wasn't Naomi or Ruth's closest next of kin. Levitical Law stated the next of kin must be the one to take care of their widowed or orphaned family member. So, Boaz did the right thing by deferring to whoever that next of kin was.

* Please stand if able
• Please be seated

Apparently, that man wasn't willing or able to care of both Ruth and Naomi... So, Naomi's matchmaking seemed to work out for everyone. I almost want to break out in that song from Fiddler on the Roof... Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match. Catch me a catch... So, Boaz did the right and the kind thing. He took Ruth to be his wife and they all lived happily ever after...

I can't think of a better story to illustrate what it means to be kind... Ruth's kindness to Naomi means she will never be alone again. Ruth sacrificed her opportunity to return to her own family back in Moab in order to stick with Naomi even though it meant travelling to a foreign land where she didn't know the customs, the language, or religion. She was going to a place where she had no family and no friends. She had to rely on the kindness of total strangers to survive. Then take Boaz. He may have been smitten with Ruth from the very beginning, but he knew he wasn't the closest relative. Instead of using his wealth and high position of honor in the community to get what he wanted, he humbled himself and deferred to the relative with the closest ties to Naomi's former husband Elimelek. Only after getting the go ahead from this other relative did Boaz take Ruth and Naomi into his family. Talk about showing kindness! Boaz was under no obligation to take in both women, but he did... He was under no law to include Naomi in the marriage deal, but he did... His only motivation was his kindness.

What would our world look like today if we followed these examples of love and kindness today? How many of our politicians would ever consider showing a little humility like Boaz did? Most of us today would rather be wrong on every issue rather than admit the other side might have some valid points... When I watch the news on any channel, I see very little kindness. Our children have precious few examples to learn from out there in the world... The only place I know where the values of love and kindness are always front and center is the Bible... We all have the opportunity to learn from the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz about how to treat one another with kindness, love, and respect.

I don't know if Ruth and Boaz lived happily ever after or not, but I do know that when we humble ourselves and treat others with love and kindness we can all live better lives that are blest by God. The Bible is full of stories and verses to help us learn to be more kind to one another. We don't have to take in the widows and orphans off the streets, but we can start at home, treating the family we do have with kind words and humility. Instead of insisting on having our own way, what would it look like if we consistently put others in our family first all the time? I know that would be hard to do. I try, but fail almost daily... That doesn't mean we stop trying. Love, kindness, humility, and forgiveness – these are the pillars of strong Christian values. This story of Ruth points us directly toward our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus showed nothing but kindness as he walked this earth

doing God's work. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and even raise people from the dead. When push came to shove, Jesus humbled himself and took up his cross for you and for me. During that entire time he never pointed a finger of blame or uttered a bad word even toward the very ones who nailed him to that cross. On the night of his betrayal, knowing Judas was about to turn him over to the Romans, Jesus still gave Holy Communion, his very body and blood to the man who would betray him... That's completely undeserved love and undeserved kindness.

May the examples of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz and our savior, Jesus help us learn how to treat one another and our neighbors. May we be known as that kind and loving congregation over there in Pittsburg Ohio doing God's work of sharing love and kindness in every corner of God's world. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Katherine Jump

*** APOSTLES' 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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

• BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR **Pr Mel**

P: As we prepare for the beginning of a new school year, I ask all teachers and students to stand if able. I also ask all parents and grandparents of students to stand as well. I ask all people who are associated with our education system in any way to stand. This includes school board members, bus drivers cafeteria workers, volunteers, PTA members, anyone who has anything to do with our schools, our Sunday Schools, our Confirmation program, and our Adult Sunday School program. If you think you don't play a part in any educational system, but if you are willing to commit to praying for our schools over this coming year, then please stand as well. I think that covers just about everyone... Thank you for all you do to help educate children and adults alike! Please be seated...

P: A reading from First Corinthians: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

P: Let us pray... O God, we ask your blessing upon for all who are beginning a new school year. We lift up both students and teachers in their academic endeavors. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, and all who support in any way the institutions of Education. Bless all who use their gifts in administration, meal preparation, transportation,

* Please stand if able

August 28, 2022

• Please be seated

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custodial care, as well as those who are directly involved in the learning process, teachers and their students. Make all of us role models and mentors for those people in our lives who look up to us so that by the way we live and by our actions we may demonstrate our love for you. In all we do, may we know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

• **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

P: At this time will all the children who have brought their backpacks and anyone else who brought in the tools of your trade please come forward and gather around the Baptismal Font.

As they gather read:

P: A reading from Mark 10:13–16

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: Let us pray for our children and the backpacks they will carry this school year... Dear God, as we begin another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, and especially on these children who will use them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and persistence when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

P: We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

P: As the Children return to their seats with their backpacks, we continue our Worship Service with the Prayers of Intercession.

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Robby Arling

* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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L: Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of passionate devotion, your servants Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi, loved and cared for each other. Their compassion benefitted all three and the greater community. Show us how to love with great devotion, so that through us your kingdom might be blessed. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless the seas, the sky, and the land, and the loving hands that tend to all your creation with compassion and care. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless all who serve and lead, all who follow, all who decide and who carry out the decisions that are made. Help us live into our callings with grace and gratitude. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless all who are in need of your healing touch, (*especially*). Bring all who suffer to wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless all the communities of the world; those who look, sound, and believe as we do, and those who do not. Make our hearts big to receive those whom we do not comprehend. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we remember the saints who have gone before us, members of your beloved family throughout time and place. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 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 the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God of security, you work for our good, that we might be sustained. Receive these, our gifts and our tithes, that others also might have sustenance, to the glory of your holy name.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the tie that binds us together. 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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN "Kids Under Construction"

Kids un - der con - struc - tion,
 may - be the paint is still wet.
 Kids un - der con - struc - tion, the
 Lord might not be fin - ished yet.

1 FINE 2
 1. We're
 2. Now
 3. I
 4. Dear

made us on pur - pose, we're part of a plan, He
 there's lots of ques - tions I just have to ask if
 I guess you think that more of - ten than not I
 make room for all oth - er chil - dren of yours, for

1, 2, 3 4
 D.C. D.C.al Fine
 cares and He knows us by name. Oh!
 I'm ev - er go - ing to know.
 hol - ler and ar - gue and tease.
 they are still grow - ing up too. Oh!

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

* **DISMISSAL**

P: 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**

* **POSTLUDE**

Darrell Fryman

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 4th
Ruth 4

This Week @ Trinity – August 28 thru September 4, 2022

Sun, August 28 10:30 am Worship Service
Tues, August 30 10:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Sept 2 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept 4 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion



- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

TODAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BID ON THE WELCA SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Just dance
MIND: Make a family picture collage
SPIRIT: Focus on the 10 commandments

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 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.

Trinity Contact Info

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated