

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



**Revelation 5:1-13**  
**August 15, 2021**



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





\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” **LBW 328**



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 Crown him, you mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar call;  
 3 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
 4 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all.  
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
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 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

\* **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... Living Christ, You are our hope when all hope has failed. Gather us under your wings of mercy, and renew your song of praise within our hearts. In your holy name we pray,

**C:** **Amen.**

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Theme:** What's In A Name

**Scripture:** Revelation 5:1-13

**Items Needed:** None

Good morning! I hope you had a great week! Today I want to talk about names and nicknames. Do you know what a nickname is? Here's a couple of nicknames you might know...

Honest Abe Lincoln and Father of the Country George Washington.

Here's a couple from sports you might know. How about Walter "Sweetness" Payton or Roger "Rocket" Clemens or Alex "A-Rod" Rodriguez. Sometimes a person gets a nickname based on real things they've done or things they are known for. Sometimes nicknames become part of the legend of a person. George Washington wasn't literally the Father of our country, but he was admired by most people who have lived here and who know about his life. Roger Clemens could throw a mean fastball and so they called him Rocket. When I was in Saudi Arabia many years ago I was driving the Colonel from one city to another and we had a car crash. Everyone started calling me Captain Crash and they even had a wooden wall plaque made for me. I'm pretty happy that nickname hasn't followed me to this day...

Jesus had a lot of nicknames that helped people understand who he was and what he did for us. One of his nicknames was the Lamb of God. In the Old Testament when God freed the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt he told them through Moses to slaughter a perfect lamb and put the blood over their door. That night the Angel of Death came and took the first-born child of every family, except those with the blood over the door. Since that lamb's blood saved the Hebrew children and then Jesus' blood saved all believer's Jesus became known as the Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sins of the World.

Jesus had many other names too, but let's thank God for this one today...

Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus to be our savior and the lamb who died and was raised for us and for our sins. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 5:1-13**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 5.

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

**5** Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup>and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>4</sup>And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>They sing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; <sup>10</sup>you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.” <sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

- **SERMON**

**Pastor Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb who was sacrificed, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen.

I love Superman. When I was a member of Abiding Christ in Fairborn, I was selected to play the part of Superman, er, um, Clark Kent in the musical “It’s A Bird, It’s A Plane, It’s Superman.” Talk about stepping out of your comfort zone... Not only did I have to sing solo, I had to do it in tights and in one song while fighting the three bad guys all at the same time... It gets you over your fear of speaking in public, that’s for sure! So, as you can imagine, I love the character of Clark Kent and his alter ego Superman. I love that Superman is this strong as steel faster than a speeding bullet superhero who always fights for freedom, justice, and the American way and, as Superman declares in one song, “... never stop doing good.” So, for the next few minutes, let’s put aside all the gray areas, the fake news, and the lies we’re told every day by the devil and assume we can still tell the difference between right and wrong. Then Superman is our guy. That is, unless you happen to have a pile of Kryptonite, but otherwise, he’s invincible!

The thing I really love about Superman is that he’s not just a one dimensional or flat character. There’s also a soft side to this protector of Metropolis, he has a soft, velvet side too. He loves Lois Lane. He’s

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\* Please stand if able

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compassionate and kind. He even cries. When I played the part of Superman I had to cry as Superman laments over his broken heart as Lois Lane was attracted to another character. As Superman I opined, why do I have to have this vulnerable side that seems to always break my heart. Why can't the strongest man in the world be the happiest man as well...

Velvet and steel, the two natures or sides of Superman are also the two sides of Jesus described in this second throne scene from the Book of Revelation. One of the elders tells John not to weep because there is one worthy to open the scroll and that one is the Lion of Judah. When I think about the phrase The Lion of Judah or lions in general, there's so much Old Testament and other images from nature. First of all, the lion is the king of the jungle and the king of all the beasts. Lions in the wild are feared. It's been said that a native of Africa, where lions still roam free, who is afraid of lions lives longer than one who is not afraid of them. Lions are fierce and mighty. Of all the twelve tribes of Israel, Judah was the tribe where all the Kings were from. When the tribes were nomadic and wandering around in the wilderness, they all developed flags or standards so you could tell where the tribe of Benjamin ended and the tribe of Zebulun began, for example. Each of these flags had their own special symbol that identified who they were. Think about the symbols for various football or baseball teams. My former

favorite team the Cleveland Indians recently changed their logo from Chief Yahoo to some kind of Guardian. I was hoping they would sell the name to their stadium to the Samsung Mobile Phone Company. Then they could be Guardians of the Galaxy...

Getting back to my story... Guess what the picture was on the flag of the tribe of Judah... If you guessed a lion you win the grand prize for today... So, in our text, the elder says to John look at the Lion of Judah, but when John looks what he sees is something different altogether. He sees, instead of a roaring lion, a lamb looking as if it had been slaughtered. This lamb has 7 horns and 7 eyes. In Bible numerology the number 7 stands for the perfect or complete. The horn was the symbol for strength and power and the eye was the symbol for knowledge or wisdom. So, having the perfect number of both horns and eyes, this slaughtered lamb is both all powerful and all knowing. Jesus is like my description of Superman in that He is also both velvet and steel at the same time.

This is what your English teacher would have called an oxymoron. An oxymoron is a phrase that uses words having the exact opposite meanings. Here's few examples of that I mean... Jumbo shrimp... Pretty ugly... Clearly confused... Act naturally... Congressional Ethics... Tight slacks... And my personal favorite the short sermon... See what I mean? Steel-velvet fit right in

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with these other oxymoronic phrases. From now until the end of the Book of Revelation Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God over 20 times, while by other names only 6 or 7 times. Sometimes this makes for very interesting verbal imagery. For example, in Revelation 6:16 John writes, “hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” Ever see an angry lamb? What will it do? Show its teeth? Make its wool stand up on the back of its neck? Bleat at you?

Then in Chapter 17 it says, they will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. You don't usually picture a lamb as a mighty general, winning a war, but that's the Jesus as revealed to us in Revelation. John the Baptist introduces Jesus by saying, “Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.” The Lion of Judah is also the lamb of sacrifice. If we take a look at what we know about Jesus, it is very clear. His words show He was lion and lamb. The same Jesus who harshly rebukes the hypocrisy of the Jews of Jerusalem, weeps over the city because they rejected Him... Jesus, the One with authority over death, shouts for Lazarus to come out of the grave, but doesn't open his mouth to defend His own life in front of Herod... His actions show He was lion and lamb as well. Jesus, the Master, also stoops to

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do the lowliest servant's job of washing the feet of his disciples... Jesus, whose presence makes the demons beg Him to go easy on them, is also the Jesus who takes children in His arms and blesses them... In fact, His whole purpose of coming to earth was full of being both lion and lamb. Jesus commanded the wind and waves to be still, but didn't threaten those who were crucifying Him nor did he order His angels to the rescue... Jesus, who was the light of life, endured the worst of darkness all for you... Jesus, Who is the Bread of Life, allowed Himself to go hungry when tempted by the devil... Jesus, Who exists in the form of God, empties Himself to become a helpless human baby... Jesus, the Lord of life, allowed his own lifeless body to be laid in the tomb, for you and for all people... Jesus, the great physician who healed so many of their physical ills, is crushed for our iniquities, bruised for our transgressions... Jesus, Who is the Good Shepherd, is led like a lamb to the slaughter... Yes, Jesus is the perfect combination of steel and velvet – Lion and Lamb.

As the lion, Jesus is able to help us through our times of trouble. He has already overcome the biggest enemy we face as humans, death itself. The oxymoronic thing is, Jesus did that by laying his life down for us. The most courageous act is also the most self-less act of love the world has ever known.

That's the kind of Savior and Lord we follow and worship. When you do follow

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Jesus, you also become part of His family. You become part of a community of faithful believers who love each other and take care of each other – people who have got your back when you need it most. You are a part of a family of people who are for the most part, free from the love of money, who care for their families, who are honest and genuine saints. You are also a part of that very same community that can sometimes act harsh and judgmental. Part of a sinful community. For all our faults, we are a part of a living Kingdom that doesn't exist just to feed itself, but to venture out into its world and engage in meaningful service. You are a part of a trust, established by God, to organize and use His resources for projects that are an ongoing, exciting adventure. I want to always be part of this family of God.

Thanks be to God for giving us both a Lion who ferociously defends and protects us from sin, death, and the devil, but also the lamb who wins victory through his suffering and death all the while never lifting a finger in violent retribution. God gives us both a Lion as our Lord and a Lamb as our Savior. May we like the elders, and the four living creatures, give our Lamb all blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever, as we never tire nor stop doing good in His Name, amen!

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

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• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Roxanne Groff**

\* **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**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: You bear God's word, O Christ, even as you embody that Word. Speak in our time—to us and through us—that the Spirit's power may move us as it did your first followers. Holy Lord,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: The Church stands as a beacon of hope in a world that often loses heart. Keep us true to our mission and lead us away from preoccupation with petty, superficial, and nonessential things, lest our witness lose its power. Holy Lord,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: A new school year is the perfect time to remind ourselves of what lies at the heart of our proclamation: your eternal, unyielding love, O God. Place it firmly within our hearts that it might guide our minds, our words, and our actions. Holy Lord,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: From your wounds, we receive healing, sweet Lamb of God. You who have known deep suffering have the power to soothe our broken souls. Lay your hands upon those whom we lift up in prayer to you, especially... Holy Lord,

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**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: The prayers of your saints are like sweet incense. Have mercy on us for the sake of all the faithful, and keep us united as one family in you. Holy Lord,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other petitions may be offered.*

L: We lay our supplications and praise before your throne, trusting always that you receive our prayers with love and mercy, for the sake of the Lamb who offered himself up for us.

**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](http://www.pitsburgtlc.org) you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day. You have made us worthy, O God, to approach your throne and offer freely the gifts of our hearts. Accept all that we bring, as children before a loving parent, and make them perfect in service to your people, and to the glory of your name.

**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

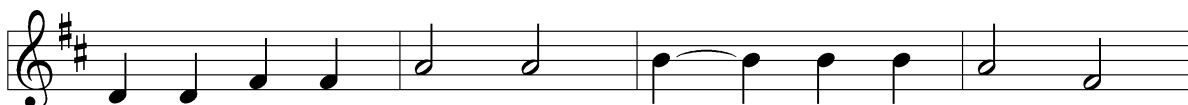
P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

\* SENDING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

LBW 165



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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\* **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**

**“Happiness Is the Lord”**

**Roxanne Groff**

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

**Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** Stop smoking or Vaping

**MIND:** Go to a Museum

**SPIRIT:** Tell someone what they mean to you

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

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

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## **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.

### **This Week @ Trinity – August 15 thru August 22, 2021**

<b>Sun, August 15</b>	10:30 am	Worship Service
<b>Wed, August 18</b>	6:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting
	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
<b>Fri, August 20</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, August 22</b>	10:30 am	Worship Service

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Lutheran Day at the GREAT Darke County Fair:** Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day. Please let Pr Mel know if you can help serve at the Spirituality Building either from 12 noon to 1:00 pm or from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

**Rally Day at Trinity:** Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Hot dogs & ice cream after worship.

**Trinity Fall Festival:** October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 pm

### **AROUND THE PARISH**

#### **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**

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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