

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



Matthew 4:1-17
January 15, 2023



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

GATHERING

- **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...

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what he taught. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we have not done to others as we would have done to ourselves. Shine a light on our hearts, that we might turn from the shadows of our sin and walk in your ways.

P: Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. By his abundant love, all your sins are forgiven, that you might walk in the light of Christ.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”** **WOV 783**



1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by



righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the



add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

* Please stand if able

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• 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.**

*** 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... Sustaining God, with the words of your holy scriptures, Jesus resisted all the temptations of the devil. Write your word on our hearts that we might also turn away from evil, in Jesus name.

C: **Amen.**

WORD OF GOD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Temptation

Object: Foam Finger

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-17

Hello girls and boys. I hope you all had a great week. I'm so happy you are here today. Today we're going to talk about temptation and sin. Doesn't that sound fun?... Well, our Bible story has Jesus out in the wilderness. Have you ever been in the wilderness? It any place where you feel like you're all alone and nobody is there to help you. Jesus had been out there by himself for a long time, The Bible says 40 days. That's when the Tempter or Satan come to him and tries to get him to turn some rocks into bread to eat. That would be pretty tempting, wouldn't it? Then the Devil tempts Jesu to jump off the roof of the Church. He says God will send angels to catch you and you won't fall. Finally the devil says

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look at all the treasure of the whole earth. All this can be yours if you just worship me!

I'll tell you how Jesus answered the devil in a minute, but first I want to show you my big foam finger. I like to take this to baseball games to show that I'm rooting for my team. I think this foam finger can also help us understand how Jesus defeated the devil out there in the wilderness.

So, the devil says turn these stones into bread and eat. Jesus might have held up a giant finger and said, no thank you. God is number one and I only follow what God says. Then the devil says since you're God's only son throw yourself off the roof and let's see if God will catch you on the way down. Once again, Jesus holds up his giant foam finger and says to the devil, "No way Jose! God is number one and I have no need to test his love for me. I already know God loves me so I don't need to throw myself off the roof to prove it." Finally, the devil offers Jesus all the riches of the world. Guess what! Jesus holds up his foam finger and loudly says, "I don't need any of those trinkets. I already have the best treasure in the whole world. God is number one in my life and nothing can be better than that!"

Jesus was tempted and we are all also tempted. Jesus resisted the devil by constantly remembering that God was number one. Maybe we can do that too. When we're tempted to do something we know is wrong, we can remember that God is number one in our lives and that will give us the courage to tell the devil to go away and leave us alone!

Let's pray for God's help when we're tempted. Dear Jesus, thank you for being our perfect example for how to deal with the devil's temptations. Thank you for showing us how to keep God as number one in our lives. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 4:1-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil

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took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

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

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Sinless One,

Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

We don't like to talk about sin or being tempted. Even in religious circles we tend to avoid especially talking about our own specific sins or what tempts us. Oh, we Lutherans freely confess we're by nature sinful and unclean, but when it comes down to specifics we don't want to talk about what we've done or left undone. I'm not so sure confessing individual specific sins is all that important. God knows what you've done and left undone. I'm pretty sure I couldn't come up with a full and complete list of every sin I've committed anyway. Besides God knows what to do about all the junk in our lives anyway... Do you remember the story in John's Gospel about the wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee? Pretty early in the celebration the host of the party ran out of wine. Mary, the mother of

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Jesus said to her son, “They have run out of wine.” She told Jesus the problem in only 6 words. Jesus knew what to do and the party had the best wine in so much abundance they could have partied for a month. That’s not how we usually pray and not how individual confession goes either. If I’d have been the one who noticed they were out of wine, I would have given more specific instructions as to what Jesus should do. “Jesus, send Judas and James to the corner liquor store to buy that good red wine. We need about 2 or 3 more cases. You can take up a collection after you get back, but here’s my credit card to use for now... Mary simply told Jesus the problem and trusted him to make things right.

By now you’re probably thinking, Pastor, what does all this have to do with the story of Jesus being tempted by Satan. If sin is the result of giving in to temptation then it’s fundamental to who we are as human beings. The temptation to sin is all around us. It never takes a break nor does it take the day off on all federal holidays or even on Air Force Family days. Temptation is persistent and pervasive. The sins each temptation represents are like a huge smorgasbord. We might not take up adultery, but we sure do enjoy a good gossip or two.

We’ve been studying the Ten Commandments in Catechism Class. Martin Luther’s explanation for the Fifth Commandment, Thou Shall not Murder is one of my favorites. Most of us would probably say, at least we haven’t broken that one. Do we have any murderers here today? Before you all start patting yourselves on

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the back because you haven't stabbed anyone in the back, listen to what Jesus had to say about this in the Sermon on the mount from Matthew, chapter 5. ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'" ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire." So, anyone here never been angry with another person? Anyone ever called someone a fool or worse?

We are all sinners who fall for the devil's temptations every day. The Bible tells us all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Scripture also tells us Jesus was human in every way, except that he was without sin. Jesus faced the same temptations we all face, but he had an answer to every temptation Satan threw his way. The three temptations in the Gospel for today are really models for all temptations. Here's what I mean. Jesus must have been near starvation when the devil tempted him to turn the stones into bread. The Tempter comes to him and says, "Come on Jesus, you have to eat. How can you help others if you're too weak to help? Besides, you can make enough bread to feed not only yourself, but the entire world. Isn't that a worthy cause? Think about it... No more starving people anywhere! Come on Jesus. Make some bread out of these stones and eat!" Jesus knew he didn't come to earth to *make* our bread, but to *be* our bread.

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The second temptation is for Jesus to throw himself off the pinnacle of the Temple. We all trust God to some extent, but how many of us would trust enough to jump from the Empire State Building and hope God would send an angel or two to catch us on the way down... Yet we put God to the test on a daily basis. In big and little ways. We pray for healing for our loved ones who are in the process of dying and expect God to perform a miracle like He's a trained seal in a Sea World show. God is not our cosmic slot machine that we can pull his lever or push His buttons and expect our will to be done. We fall for this temptation over and over. When I was in school, I would consistently fail to study on a daily basis and then try to cram it all in the night before the big exam. My prayer before the test was always, God, please get me through this with a passing grade and I promise to study more regularly in the future. I was putting God to the test by not being prepared and then expecting God to get me through...

Finally, the third temptation... Who doesn't want fame, or money, or power? We're talking greed here... Scripture tells us the love of money is the root of all evil. It's not the money itself, but the love of money that causes us to fall into this trap. Just like Abraham and the Chosen people of God in ancient days, we're also blessed to be a blessing to the nations of the world. You see money isn't the problem. Money is a blessing. God asks us to use it to be a blessing to our neighbors.

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None of us likes to talk about the temptations that cause us to sin. I'm just happy God doesn't require us to continuously go over and over all those times when we gave in to the temptations of this world. I'm also happy that God knew all the way back at the beginning we couldn't solve our sin problem by just being a better version of ourselves. If there was going to be a solution to our sin problem, God would have to take care of it Himself. That's just what God did! Jesus said he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. In encountering the tempter face to face and smacking him down, Jesus did confront every temptation we face, but came out on the other side unscathed, and even more importantly, without sin.

These temptations may seem far removed from the sins we face day in and day out, but I suggest these are templates the Devil uses, adapts, and reuses over and over to catch us in his trap. Think of them as leaving God out of the picture of life and you controlling your life. Control, power, accountability, those are the sins of our lives. We like to pretend, to play games with others and with God that we're not as bad as someone else we can point a finger at. Then we sit back in the smugness of our own sin and pride. Living life my way are the call words for many people, especially Americans who love to be fiercely independent. One of the fast-food chains had a slogan a few years ago, saying, "Have it your way!" Maybe some will remember Frank Sinatra's hit song, "I did it my way!" You and I

like to have things our own way. We want to take God out of the picture of our lives. We want to control and run our lives our way.

A final story... The tragedy left the man homeless, widowed and childless. Fire swept through the trailer, and all was lost. It took some time for the full weight of the loss to descend, and when it did, he was nearly crushed. Like Job he would not be comforted.....When the gift of shock was lifted, anger and resentment filled every waking thought. God had not been fair to him -- God had not protected his family. He had not come to him with a special visitation to explain the “why” or the ‘what next.’” He was in a wilderness as God forsaken as the Dead Sea... The greatest temptation was to add to his losses by giving up on his faith. He felt justified. No one would fault him. Some might even support him. He prayed angrily now, daring God to hurt him further, and challenging Him to give any reason to hold on to the thin thread of his faith that was left. He prayed angrily, but he prayed, and God could handle it... The anguish continued to mount until one afternoon he uttered a cry so forcefully, it could only be described as a scream. No word was spoken, just a loud angry scream against the forces of heaven and hell, as if to say, “I’ve hurt all I can, and I’ve paid my dues for love... Please, help me!” The silence that followed was quieter than death itself. Then a peace was evident for the first time in months. Scripture might have said, “Angels came and ministered unto him.” Satan had been overthrown, and health was

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coming back, for he trusted, at last, God was caring for those he lost. God was caring for him. God could handle his honest anger, and his honest emotions.

May the God of love and mercy send his angels to minister to you in your times of temptation and loss. May you find the comfort of knowing Jesus Christ has already paid the price for your sin and no temptation nor any sin is so strong that it can steal you from the hands of your savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for taking away my sin and yours. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** 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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident that our savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

L: Jesus, teach us to obey God and recognize God's promises as you did when you resisted the temptations of the devil. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Help us to see wilderness as beautiful and sacred to you. Teach us to protect and nurture all that you have created. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: We lift up all who suffer injustice, poverty, or oppression. On this weekend when we remember Martin Luther King, Jr., give us passion to continue his work for justice. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Restore to health and wholeness all who are in need of healing, (*especially*). Give strength to all who cry out to you. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bring your world closer together, and help us celebrate those things that we have in common with others, rather than hiding behind those things that separate us. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember all those who have gone before us, living their faith by standing up to oppression for the sake of others. May we follow in their footsteps until we see them face to face. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

• OFFERING

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, for those worshipping with us through the internet, if you go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org, you'll find a button where you can make your offering to God through our secure website.

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day... You tend to all our needs, generous God, that we might better serve you and our neighbors. We return now these gifts you have first given us, a sign of our trust in you. Use them for the sake of the world, in Jesus name.

C: Amen.

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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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might. 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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of 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.

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*** 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: Jesus did not turn stones into bread, but instead gave of his own body in this sacred host we share together. Come and receive the food that truly satisfies, in remembrance of him. The table is set and all are welcome.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by “Station”. Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

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... Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Brightest and Best”

LBW 84



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ring di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

* **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!

* **POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
Mind: Learn the history of your city
Body: Take a relaxing bath
Spirit: Start a prayer journal



Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 22nd
 Matthew 5:1-20

This Week @ Trinity – January 15 thru January 22, 2023

Sun, Jan 15	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
	After Worship	New Member Class
Mon, Jan 16	7:30 pm	Dartball (Home Game Season Finale) 
Tue, Jan 17		Newsletter Articles Due to Church Secretary
Wed, Jan 18	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Thurs, Jan 19	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon at Double M Diner, Back of 537 S. Broadway, Greenville
Fri, Jan 20	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Jan 22	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
	After Worship	New Member Class

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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.

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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