

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



*Jesus in the
Temple*

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

• **Prelude**

Roxanne Groff

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

• **Welcome**

Pr Mel

* **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: Renewing God,

C: You have come into our world to live among us, yet we often lose sight of this and seek to manufacture our own truth. We are afraid to share your word lest others judge or mock us. We ignore your wisdom because it isn't convenient. We allow ourselves to be defeated by despair. Forgive our negligence and breathe new life into our heavy hearts.

P: God knows our every weakness and still loves us and upholds our life. May your sins be forgiven, your past forgotten, and your hope restored in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING SONG** “Angels From the Realms of Glory” **LBW 50**



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

* = Please stand if able

January 3, 2021

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*** 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... Loving God, You care for us as a parent cares for their children. May we also live your compassion and tend to those who rely upon us for care, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

• SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:41-52

P: Our scripture reading this morning is from Luke, Chapter 2.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord. (Spoken)**

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not

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know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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 the one who shows us the Father's will, our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Every time I read this story from Jesus' as a pre-teen, I can't help but think of the Christmas classic movie Home Alone. I mean Jesus was left behind by his parents in Jerusalem, just like Kevin being forgotten at home in that movie classic. Of course, Home Alone is about a boy around the age of 10-12 years-old who is unintentionally left at home for Christmas when his large, extended family take a vacation to France. The family gets on the plane and it takes off and that's when the mom has a feeling that she's forgotten something, only to realize she and the entire family have left Kevin at home. Not to ruin the ending if you haven't seen it, but the family is eventually reunited after the mischievous little boy spends a few nights at home alone. We might call the account we heard this morning from "Jerusalem Alone," but this isn't the story of some mischievous little boy surviving in the big city or negligent parents who forgot their son. This is the story of God's Son Jesus, knowing exactly who he was and why he came into the world.

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Just 10 days ago we celebrated the infant Jesus, born in a stable and laid in a cattle feeding trough for his bed. Now, just 10 days later we catch up with this Holy Family and Jesus is already 12 years old... How fast kids grow up these days... During the intervening 12 years, Mary and Joseph have made the journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Passover along with thousands of their fellow faithful Old Testament believers. People travelled from all over Israel to Jerusalem, to celebrate the Passover, but this Passover was one that Mary and Joseph would not soon forget. The festival came to an end and the family began their journey back home to Nazareth. Travel back then was on foot and people travelled in large groups for safety. They travelled for nearly a day when Mary and Joseph started looking for Jesus who they had thought was with their Nazarene family and friends. When Jesus was nowhere to be found among all the travelers heading back to Nazareth panic began to set in. If you've ever lost sight of a child in a large crowd even for just a few moments, you know how it feels. The darting eyes, the questioning of relatives and friends if any of them had seen Jesus. A couple of months ago I was watching my grandchildren at home when Gabriel decided he would take off. I searched and searched. I drove around the block several times looking for him. Then I called PJ at work and asked her what I should do. I searched some more... I finally found him hiding behind the couch in our the Florida room. It must have been so much worse for Mary and

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Joseph! Can you just imagine? Mary and Joseph thinking about WHO they had lost! This was not just their son, this was the Son of God entrusted to them by God the Father, and they had lost him! This was really not good!

They started retracing their steps all the way back to Jerusalem. I searched for Gabe for an hour or so before I found him, I know how panicked I was! They searched the city for three days when they finally arrived at the temple. There he was sitting among the teachers, listening to them, asking them questions, and amazing them with his own knowledge of the scriptures. These religious experts had what would become a quite common reaction when listening to Jesus. They were amazed. This 12 year-old boy showed such maturity in understanding and putting things together that he just wowed all that witnessed it. At first, Mary and Joseph were also caught up in the amazement at what they were seeing and hearing, but then that parent part kicked in... Frustration, relief, fear and anger all come together as Mary questions Jesus, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you with great anxiety. Anxiety, even great anxiety doesn't do justice to what you go through when you've lost a young child. In this case, Greek word literally means the physical pain of torture. It's a word sometimes used to describe hell. In other words, "Why did you put us through this hellish experience?"

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I think Jesus was a bit surprised his parents wouldn't instinctively know where he would be. He's like, "Didn't you know this is where I would be? This is my Father's House after all..." I love the wording in the old King James Bible where Jesus says, "did you not know I must be about my Father's Business?" I thought a lot about that one line this week as I kept coming back to Jesus, at the ripe old age of 12, already knows exactly what his Father's business is and He's not going to let anyone, even his earthly parents get in his way. By 12 years old Jesus is already so conversant in the language of the Scriptures that He's amazing all the old hat, died in the wool, religious leaders at the Temple in Jerusalem. We're not talking about some hay seed Rabbi from the backwoods of Darke County, er, I mean Galilee. We're talking about blowing the socks off the big time leaders who have made it to the top of the religious hierarchy in the capital City of Jerusalem. Jesus was amazing the ones who preside over worship at the one and only Temple, the only House of God in the entire world! I imagine Jesus telling them about how the Messiah had to come from Bethlehem then escape the baby genocide by fleeing to Egypt and then after God spoke to Joseph telling him Herod the psychotic King who wanted Jesus dead, had himself bit the dust. I imagine Jesus explaining how the Messiah wasn't primarily coming to overthrow the Roman rulers, as they thought, but came to show them how to live a God pleasing life; a life where the least of these our brothers and sisters are cared for and loved,

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not exploited. It's not about regime change or the mighty warrior God finally killing all of Israel's enemies, it's about living in peace with your enemies and loving even the ones who persecute you and try to kill you. It's about repaying violence with love, turning the other cheek, and forgiving all those who are indebted to you, no matter how much it hurts to do so. Learning to live that kind of life, is the business of Jesus' Father that Jesus was about and even at the age of only 12 years old, Jesus was amazing the top religious leaders in the world and giving them an education on what a God pleasing life looks like. Later on, Jesus would say He came to bring Good News to the poor, to free the prisoners, and to heal the sick and bring sight to the blind. That's the stuff Jesus was teaching the priests in the Temple when he was left behind by his earthly parents...

One last thing I noticed. Mary and Joseph didn't understand when Jesus explained where he had been and why. I thought about all the places in the Bible where I don't understand what God is doing and all those times in my life when I don't understand what God is asking of me and I realized it's OK to not understand everything. God's ways are so far beyond anything we can comprehend it's not possible to always understand the heart and mind of God. Besides, God never once asks us to understand, only believe... We're only asked to trust God's promises not figure out the calculus that makes them possible. Trust first, then obey.

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As we begin this New Year, may God richly bless you with His presence.

May we all stop trying to understand every jot and tittle of scripture and just simply believe and follow Jesus, our best example of everything God wants us to know... Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

* **NICENE 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: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

P: The following persons have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. Please stand where you are as your Office and Name is read.

TRINITY 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELECTED DELEGATES

| OFFICE | NAME | TERM |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| President | Dean Thompson | 2021 |
| Vice President | Trent Groff | 2021 |
| Recording Secretary | Bev Erdmann | 2021-2023 |
| General Treasurer | Tony Baker | 2021-2023 |
| Elder | Mark Oswalt | 2021-2022 |
| | Jake Angles | 2020-2021 |
| Trustee | Eldon Erdmann | 2021-2023 |
| | Kevin McKibben | 2019-2021 |
| | Brad Harleman | 2020-2022 |
| Deacon | Roxanne Groff | 2021-2022 |
| | Theresa Neitzelt | 2021-2022 |
| | Darrell Schneider | 2020-2021 |
| Building Fund Treasurer | Andy McKibben | 2020-2022 |
| Financial Secretary | Linda Baker | 2021-2023 |
| Benevolence Treasurer | Diane Warner | 2020-2022 |
| Nominating Committee | Julie Kossler | 2021 |
| | Theresa Neitzelt | 2021 |
| | Pam Oswalt | 2021 |
| Christian Education Leader | Marge Warner | 2020-2021 |
| <i>Delegates:</i> | | |
| Southern Ohio Synod (<i>Weekend in May/June</i>) | Mark & Pam Oswalt | 2020-2021 |
| Northwest Conference | Kathy Kathman | 2021 |
| | Katherine Jump | 2021 |
| Graceworks | Theresa Neitzelt | 2021 |
| | Kathy Kathman | 2021 |
| Wernle Home Reps. | Judy Ulrich | 2021 |
| | Bev Erdmann | 2021 |
| | Eldon Erdmann | 2021 |

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- P: In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual ministries as a congregation. As each of you stand here to take leadership positions within this congregation, we remember the words of Saint Paul. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
- P: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

The minister addresses those being installed.

- P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Yes, by the help of God.

Those being installed face the congregation. The minister addresses the congregation:

- P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: Yes, by the help of God.

Those being installed face the minister, who addresses them:

- P: I now declare you installed as *officers, council members, and delegates* of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

C: Amen!

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

A: Even as a child Jesus was a pure channel for the Spirit of truth. Teach us to recognize the wisdom of children and their innocent connection with their creator and their world. Nurturing God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: At the beginning of this new year, renew our spirits and cleanse us of all we wish to leave behind. Keep us looking and moving forward in faith. Nurturing God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You love all creation as your own offspring: the works of your hands given life by the breath of your spirit. May we likewise come to love this created world
Nurturing God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Comfort all parents who have lost children, through abduction, estrangement or death, and assure them that you have never abandoned them or their loved ones. Tend to the sick in body, mind and spirit, especially those whom we name before you... Nurturing God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You hold in your arms all who have passed into the next life and sought your eternal reward. Bless them and all whom they have left behind on earth, that we might be assured of our eventual reunion with you in your heavenly home.
Nurturing God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Our eyes await the fulfillment of your promises, the answer to our prayers: your Son, our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

C: Amen.

*** 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 a ceramic flowerpot located near the back door of the church, and for all of you worshipping with us on FaceBook or other Social Media you can make your offering directly on our Website at www.pitsburgtlc.org.

* = Please stand if able

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P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day... We give you the gifts of our time, our resources and ourselves, and ask you to bless them for the sake of your service and the building up of your kingdom on earth.

C: Amen.

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.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: 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 life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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

* = Please stand if able

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*** THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: United into one by this heavenly food, we 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: You have poured out your spirit upon all flesh, and gathered your children from the ends of the earth to proclaim your salvation. Let us come now to celebrate our deliverance in this bread and cup of mercy.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of the body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of 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.

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world’s needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

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* **SENDING HYMN** **“Angels We Have Heard On High”** **LBW 71**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
 Glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you for worshipping with us either in person or through the internet.

Until we gather to Worship our great God next week, depart in Christ’s Love,

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

Postlude

Roxanne Groff

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Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Plan meals for the week
MIND: Finish reading a book
SPIRIT: Stop and look at God’s beauty in the Universe

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Ministers | All the People of Trinity |
| Lector | Katherine Jump |
| Organist | Roxanne Groff |
| Parrish Nurse | PJ Musser |
| Custodian | Mark Groff |
| Secretary | Sharon Fourman |
| Flowers | Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel and PJ Musser |
| Facebook Live Recorder | PJ Musser |



Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 10th
Luke 3:1-22

This Week @ Trinity – January 3 thru January 10, 2021

Sun, January 3

10:30 am Worship Service

Wed, January 6

6:30 PM WELCA Meeting

Thurs, January 7

7:00 pm Trinity Bible/Book Club

Fri, January 8

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, January 10

10:30 am Worship Service

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NO PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



To Mark & Roxanne Groff for the loan of the Christmas tree in the sanctuary this year – it was much more manageable and safer to assemble during this Covid time.



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

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| Office Phone: | 937-692-5670 |
| Website: | www.pitsburgtlc.org |

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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