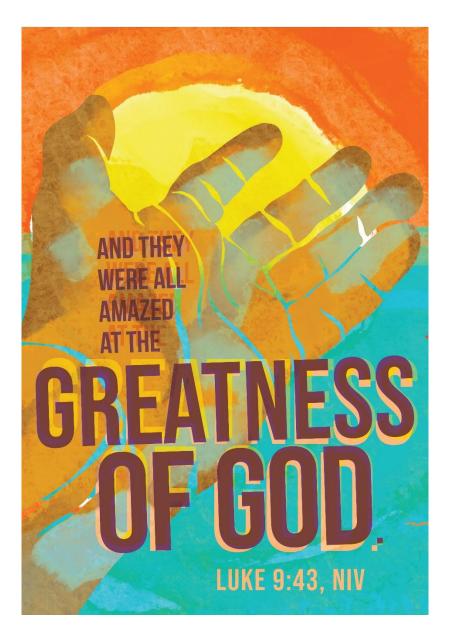
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Luke 9:28-45 March 2, 2025



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

• Prelude

Pam Sherman

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

Pr Mel Musser

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

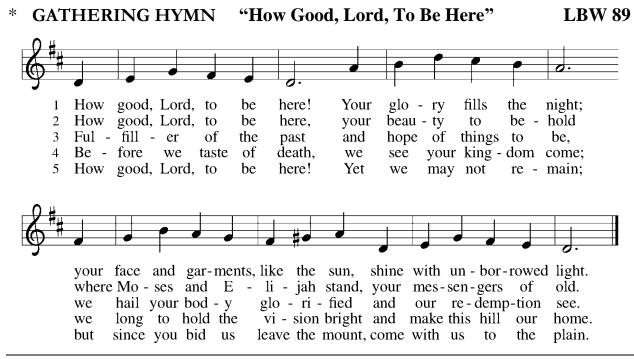
The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of light,

- C: You reveal yourself to us, but we do not see. You call to us, but we do not hear. You reach out to us, but we do not feel. Instead we live as though you are not our God. We act in ways that bring disunity, oppression, and pain to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us for our constant wandering. Draw us back into your loving arms and re-direct our steps onto your path of love, justice, and healing, for the sake of all that you have made.
- P: Children of light, God will always find us where we wander, and carry us safely home. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, whose sacrificial selflessness has redeemed you and all of creation.
- C: Amen.



^{*} Please stand if able

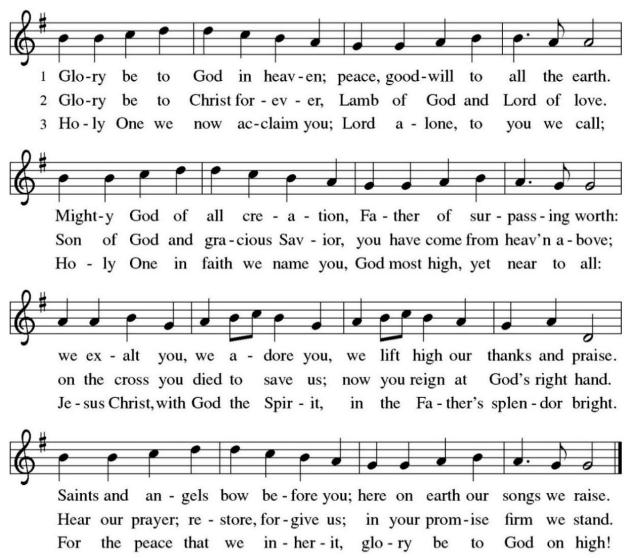
March 2, 2025 Page 2 of 20

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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... Gracious God, help us to recognize your presence both on the mountains and in the valleys of life. May we know and trust that you are with us in every joyful moment and in every difficult challenge. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

* Please stand if able

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: The Highs of Life Prepare us for the Lows of lifeMaterials: Beautiful Mountain PicturesScripture: Luke 9:28-45

Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week! Have any of you ever taken a vacation to the mountains? I love the mountains. When we lived in Phoenix Arizona it was so hot in the summer, usually over 100 degrees, we would always plan a summer vacation to the mountains of Flagstaff, where it would only be in the 70s. Here are a few pictures of the beauty of mountain tops. Maybe you've never been to the mountains, but you have been on vacation with your family and had such a fun time you never wanted to go home. Sometimes our vacations are that great! You know that we can't stay on vacation all the time. We have to get back to our regular life because our parents have to work and you have to go to school. Besides that, there are friends here that might need our help. If we were always on the top of the mountain or away on vacation,, how would we go to school or help our friends who need us?

It was the same for Jesus and his best friends Peter, James, and John. They went up to the top of a mountain so they could pray. While Jesus was praying he was changed so that his face glowed and his clothing was whiter than any bleach could whiten them. Not only that, but Moses and Elijah both appeared and talked to Jesus. The disciples were so afraid, but they were amazed. Peter wanted to make a cabin on the mountain so they could all stay there, but Jesus said no. They had to return to those who needed him. Also, from that day on, Jesus was determined to head to Jerusalem where he would be beaten and crucified, but on the third day God would raise him from the dead. Jesus left the mountain not to just help his friends, but to save every person who trusts in Him to save them from their sin, from the devil, and most importantly, from death itself.

I'm so happy Jesus didn't listen to Peter, but listened to our Heavenly Father instead. Jesus didn't stay on vacation up in the mountains, but he returned to the real world to face sin and the devil head on and he won!

Let's pray and thank God for Jesus... Dear God, we thank you that Jesus knew what he had to do when he came down from the mountain. Help us to trust in his love and to share the love of Jesus with everyone we know. Amen.

^{*} Please stand if able

Please be seated

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:28-45

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴"Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." ⁴⁵But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON

Pr. Mel Musser

* Please stand if able

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Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who keeps company with Moses, Elijah, and the likes of us, Jesus the Christ, amen.

I'm happy the snow has finally melted. A week or so ago, after we got all that snow, (SLIDE) then the weather changed and we had bright blue skies and even brighter reflections of that big beautiful, extremely bright sunshine, off the fields covered in snow. It was so bright as I drove around town I had to wear my darkest sunglasses. Yet, as bright as the light reflecting off those snowy fields was, it held no comparison to the brightness of Jesus during the mountaintop theophany we call The Transfiguration of Our Lord. (SLIDE) This story comes up every year about this time. Transfiguration Sunday marks a transition from the Church season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. During Epiphany we read stories from the Bible about Jesus being revealed as the light of the world. (SLIDE) The 3 Wise Men come to pay homage. Jesus is Baptized. Jesus shows his glory and power in performing miracles like changing water into wine, and even raising the widow's son from the dead. This mountaintop experience is the final capstone to the season of light. I get that the Church wants this to be such an important story because it reveals Jesus as God's chosen son and instructs the disciples and all of us to listen to Jesus, but I'm not so sure this story accomplishes in us what it might have done to the original audience.

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Some of us have been meeting here to watch the TV Show called The Chosen. (SLIDE) We're only meeting twice a month and we watch one episode and discuss the Bible story, so it's going to take quite a while to finish all 5 seasons. We talked about the Chosen last month at the Greater Greenville Ministerial Meeting. We aren't the only church watching and discussing this very well-done series. One Pastor though, was pretty vocal about how much he dislikes watching the series because the authors and producers take great poetic license with the biblical narratives. They add a lot of backstories to the Bible characters and that seems to bother him. I understand his concern. Too many folks today are Biblically illiterate. The only exposure they have to reading the Bible is what they hear in Church on Sunday mornings. If that's all you know about the Bible, then his concerns would be totally valid. I mean, how can you distinguish between what the Word of God, as told in the Bible, actually says, from the total fiction, made up by the producers in order to make the Bible stories more television friendly and interesting? Our approach to watching the Chosen helps alleviate that concern. We start out by actually reading the passages from the Bible that are portrayed in each episode. That way, when we see the Bible story with the added backstories of the characters, we can readily tell what the TV producers have added.

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I tell you all of this because I read that the creator of the Chosen series, Dallas Jenkins, has commented they will not have an episode depicting the transfiguration. Jenkins says he thinks it would look too much like the Return of the Jedi Star Wars movie. He went on to say that since the three disciples kept quiet about what they had seen, the fact that Peter still went on to deny Jesus three times on the night of his betrayal, and that none of the disciples seemed to understand Jesus' intent to go to Jerusalem to be crucified, (SLIDE) all point to the fact that this experience doesn't seem to change them in any discernable way.

I was disappointed to hear that this story is not included in the Chosen series, but I wonder if Dallas Jenkins has a point. The transfiguration might not have made the cut for the TV series, but it was considered so important by the Gospel writers that it was included in all three synoptic Gospels and in the follow-up to Luke's Gospel, The Acts of the Apostles. Right off the bat I noticed that even if the disciples remained clueless, Jesus most certainly got the point. After the scene concludes, Luke tells us Jesus set his face to Jerusalem. (**SLIDE**) His face was set. It was like set as in set like cement. From this moment on, Jesus was intent on accomplishing God's will on the cross in Jerusalem.

Even though we read one of the versions of this story every year, God's Word comes to us new and is still the living Word of God. This time as I studied the transfiguration, I looked at what came before and afterward. Right before this

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mountaintop experience. Jesus had taken his disciples to a very pagan religious temple and asked them who the people were saying Jesus was. They reported that some said he was one of the prophets or maybe John the Baptist reincarnated... Then Jesus turned the question on them, asking who do you say that I am? That's when Peter made his famous confession that Jesus was the Messiah, the son of God. Despite Peter saying the correct words, he had no idea what that meant. (SLIDE) When Jesus began to describe his crucifixion and resurrection, Peter rebuked him. Now, just one week later, Peter and James and John are on the mountaintop and the voice of none other than God Almighty, tells them to listen to Jesus. Peter might not have wanted to hear Jesus talk about his upcoming rendezvous with the cross, but our heavenly Father certainly wants Peter and all of us to listen up when Jesus speaks. The disciples and us, might not be able to comprehend what it all means, but if they and we listen with more than our ears then we too can come to at least partially understand.

When God commands us to listen to Jesus what he is asking of us is more than just hearing the Words. God wants us to hear the words, but then to study and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to understand. I believe it's even more than just hearing and understanding, it also means for those who want to be His disciples to obey Jesus. It took Peter quite some time to get this. Even after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter was still trying to have it both ways. I mean,

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he wanted the grace of the Gospel, but he still wanted the security of the Law. Peter went up against Paul, who opposed requiring followers of Jesus to first become Jews, including all the dietary and ritual cleanliness laws. Also, there was that whole argument over the requirement for the males to be circumcised. (SLIDE) It wasn't until God came to Peter in a dream much later in Acts, Chapter 10 that Peter realized the Way of Christ was wide open for everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. By continuing to listen to Jesus, to God, and to the Holy Spirit, Peter did finally understand this new life was intended for all people.

How does this story change us today? As we look to the glory of Jesus, we can find comfort...comfort in knowing this Jesus really and truly is the Savior of the world! Jesus didn't come with just the law, or the stern warnings of a prophet, but He came with God's grace and truth. (SLIDE) From the first chapter of the Gospel of John we learn about how the Word became flesh. When you have time today, it would be good to read that first chapter of John. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

As I have come to ponder this story of the Transfiguration of our Lord, I strongly disagree with Dallas Jenkins. I think we can learn a lot and even all these years later still be transformed by vicariously witnessing this miraculous story about the time when God spoke from the cloud and commanded us to listen and to

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obey his Chosen one, his beloved Son. (SLIDE) I love a good mountaintop experience as much as the next person, but we can't stay on the mountain. There are still so many hurting people down here in the valley. We still have so much work to do.

May the awe inspiring brilliance of our savior transform our hearts from

cold, hardened muscle, into hearts full of love. May the transfiguration of Jesus

give us a small glimpse of the amazing glory and holiness of the divine man who

came to die for you and for me. Dear God, let us reflect your glory today. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* 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
 - *Or, He descended to the dead.*

^{*} Please stand if able

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: We witness your glory in the transfiguration of Jesus Christ, and in all that he did. May we be inspired as we come down the mountain to continue in your work, and carry the awe of our mountaintop experiences with us. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Empower scientists and environmentalists in their work, and help us to respond to their calls to care for the earth with bold actions and sustainable practices. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant humble hearts to all who hold positions of power. May they be guided by your grace as they make decisions for the wellbeing of all. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant refuge and peace to all who cry out to you. Strengthen those who journey with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses, and all maladies of body, mind, or spirit (*especially*...) God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless the ministries and outreach of our congregation. May we be guided by your light in all that we do for our neighbors near and far. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Help us to follow the example of those who have gone before us and to embrace the path of discipleship in our time as they did in theirs. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift up all of our prayers to you.

C: Amen.

MEAL

• OFFERING

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

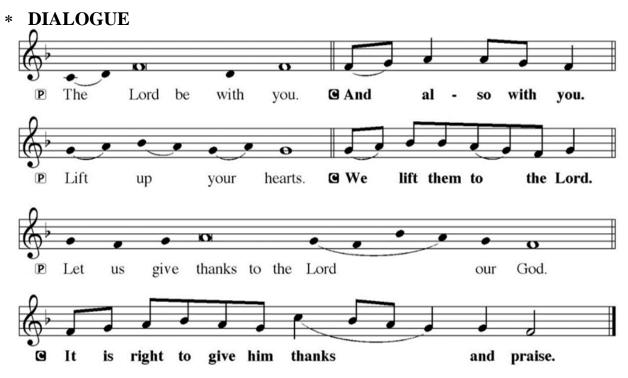
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* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ... God of transformation, accept these gifts we bring before you out of the abundance you have first given us. Accept them and turn them into hope for those in need, in our community and beyond.

C: Amen.

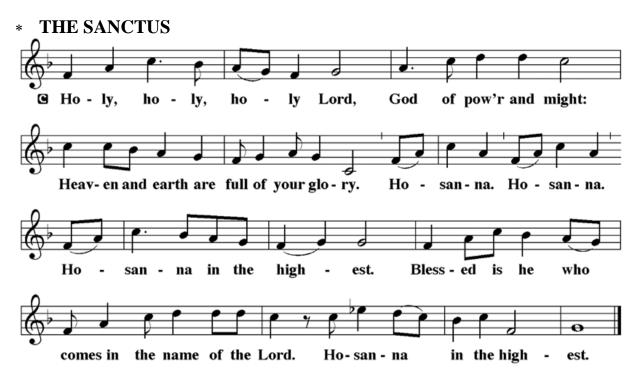
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



* 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:

* Please stand if able



* EUCHARISTIC 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

* Please stand if able

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: United into one through Jesus Christ Our Lord, 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.

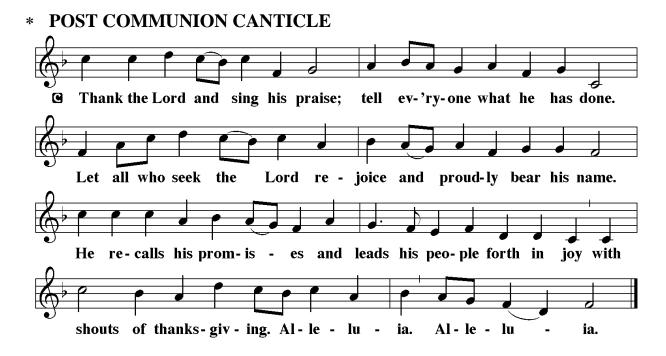
* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus who is so much more than just an itinerant preacher now invites you into his life-transforming forgiveness and love in this holy feast. Come and be nourished on the bread and wine that is his very presence.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is at the rail. 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.



* Please stand if able

March 2, 2025 Page 16 of 20

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.



* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

March 2, 2025 Page 17 of 20

* 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. 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

Pam Sherman

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Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Marge Warner
Acolyte	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

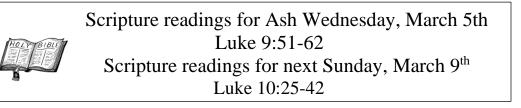
This Week @ Trinity – March 2 thru March 9:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, March 2	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, March 4	6:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Game Night
Wed, March 5	11:30 am	WELCA Meeting
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Fri, March 7	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, March 8	Turn your clocks FORWARD one hour before bedtime.	
Sun, March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins Today	
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

* Please stand if able

Save The Date!

Wednesdays - March 12, 19, 26 &	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible
April 2 & 9 @ 6:00 pm	Study Discussion
Tuesday, March 18	April Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, March 19 @ 10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
Thursday, March 20 @ 11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at Sharp's
	Tavern, 101 S. Main, Palestine
Sunday, March 30 after Worship	Trinity Troops!
April 17 @ 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18 @ 7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
April 20 @ 8:00 am	Early Worship Service
9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am	Late Worship Service



Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Put a jigsaw puzzle together with a friendBODY: Try a week of food preppingSPIRIT: Start a Lenten Bible Study/ Attend Ash Wednesday Service



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

* Please stand if able

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.

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

Trinity Contact Info



* Please stand if able