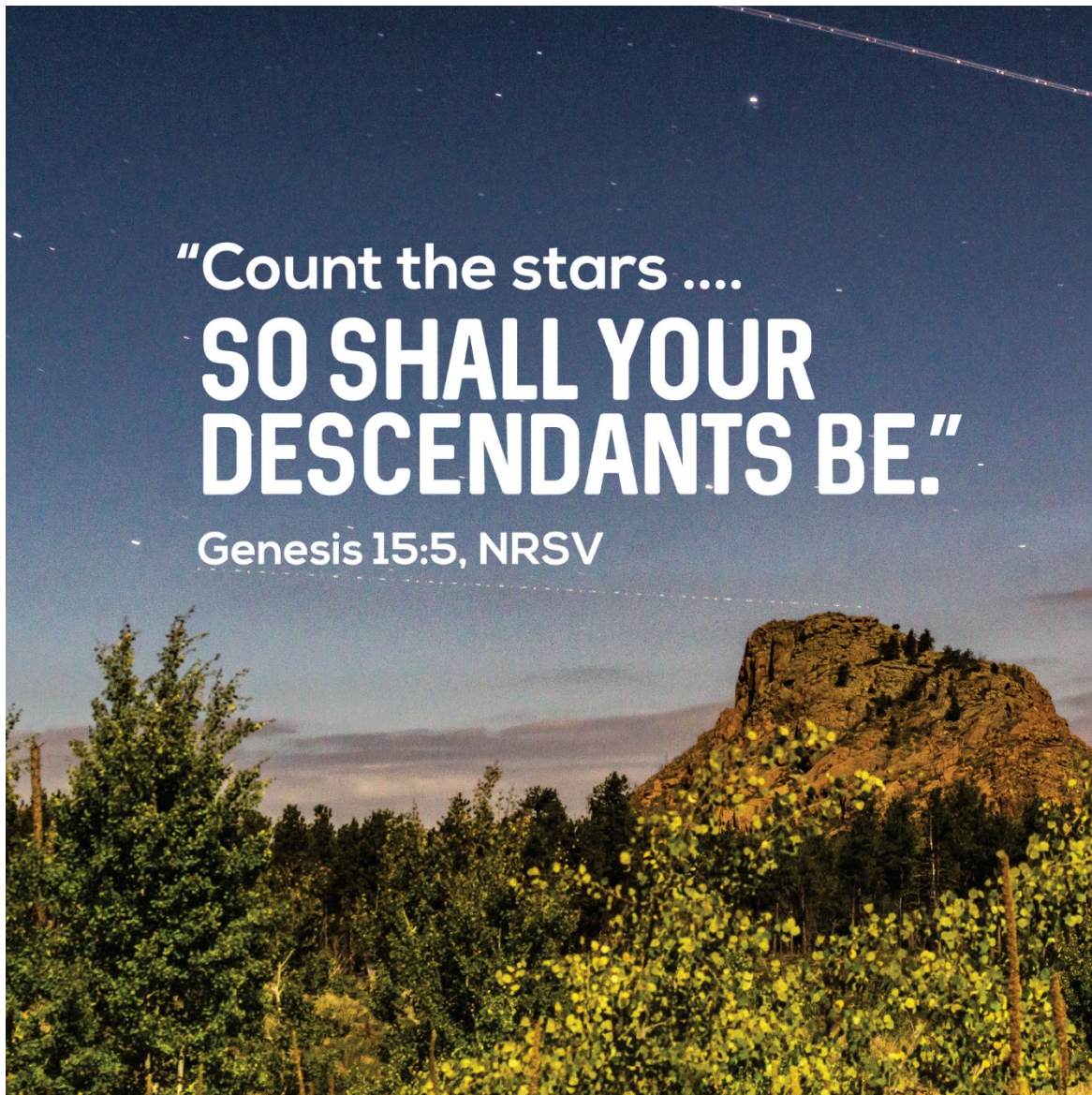


Mission Congregation of the ELCA  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Genesis 15:1-6  
September 15, 2024



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



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## GATHERING

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- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **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: Merciful God,

**C: We confess that from the beginning of time we have failed to understand your call to us. We have acted as though we are gods in our own lives. We have acted or failed to act in ways that have led to injustice and oppression. We have turned away from you and sought after other gods—possessions, people, media, and other distractions. Forgive us for all the ways in which we have failed you and our neighbors. Call us back into the abundant life of loving service that you offer us in your holy name.**

P: Beloved of God, hear these words of hope. God who created you in God's image has redeemed you in Christ Jesus, and for his sake forgives you for all the ways you have sinned and fallen short. Receive this forgiveness with joy, in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

\* **GATHERING HYMN “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us” ELW 789**



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

\* **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 mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**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 mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Holy God, still our hearts and calm our minds. Remind us of your steadfast love, and teach us to trust in your promises, for you keep your word.

C: Amen.

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**WORD**

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



**Theme:** Trusting in God  
**Materials:** Picture of a Starry Night  
**Scripture:** Genesis 15:1-6

Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. We've had some really great weather lately. There haven't been hardly any clouds in the sky. At night when I go outside to walk my puppies I love to look up at all the stars in the sky. Have you ever tried to count the stars? I put a picture of a really starry night up on the wall. It would take us all day just to count the stars in this one picture, let alone to try to count all the stars in the night time sky.

There's a story in the Bible about a man named Abram. He and his wife were very old and they had no children. That made them very sad because in those days people thought a large family with lot's of children was God's way of blessing them. If you had no children, then people thought you must have done something wrong or that God was mad at you...

That wasn't true about Abram. God took Abram outside on a clear night and promised him he would have so many children they would outnumber the stars in the night sky. Most people would never have believed or trusted God, especially since Abram was already so old. That was not so with Abram though. Abram did trust God and believed that God would provide a son and that many descendants would come from Abram and his wife Sarah.

God still makes promises to you and me today. God promises to forgive us all our sins and to make us live forever. God promises to provide for our daily needs and to always love us no matter what.

I trust God and I trust in God's promises to me. I hope you trust God too.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for the example of Abram and Sarah and their trust in your promises. Help us to always trust you, especially when things are hard and we want to give up. Thank you for your son, Jesus and the hope we have because of his love for us. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:1-6**

R: Our scripture reading is from Genesis, Chapter 15.

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

**15** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

- **SERMON**

**Pr. Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who unites us in faith, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

Are any of you complainers? I try not to complain about things, at least not too much... One of the things I learned in my days as an Air Force Officer was that if I knew something wasn't right and I said something, I'd better have a plan to fix it. (SLIDE) In the Air Force, those who just brought up things that weren't right, without offering a valid solution. or at least a proposed solution, were usually considered not much more than just a complainer. If you brought up a problem and a proposed solution, you were a hero and a problem solver.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

That manner of getting things done might work in the Air Force, but I'm not so sure how that works in our Spiritual or prayer lives. (SLIDE) When it comes to prayer, I think God not only tolerates our complaints, God welcomes them and gives us answers to our problems when we raise our complaints through prayer. Let's look at Abram for our example. (SLIDE) Abram was a wealthy man with herds of camels and lots of other livestock. He had a large family and many servants. In his old age, God came to Abram and asked him to pack up his family, his servants, his livestock, and all his belongings and move to an unknown place. He was to keep moving about until God told him where to settle down. Abram did as God asked... (SLIDE) When he was about 80 years old God came to Abram again and promised him he would have a son and that many nations would come from his offspring. These two promises from God echoed the promise God made in creation. God made humans and placed them in the Garden of Eden. He instructed the first humans to be fruitful and multiply. So, in creation, God gave humans both a home and a legacy of descendants that would live into history. In Abram, God is doing the very same thing. God guides Abram and his family toward the promised land and promises him a legacy that will live into history.

Here's the rub... God seems to be delayed or to have forgotten those promises. So, what does Abram do? He does what any well-trained Air Force Airman would do. He comes up with his own solution to the problem. We call

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated



Abram, who later God changes his name to Abraham, the father of our Faith. That is what Abraham is, but not because of his brilliant solutions to the problem of the delayed fulfillment of God's promises. When we recall the actions Abraham takes we clearly see he tires of waiting for God to fulfill the promises and takes actions into his own hands. A couple of examples come to mind. First, he fails to rely on God to provide and when a famine hits, he changes directions in his wanderings and moves to Egypt. (SLIDE) While there he lies about his relationship to his wife Sarah and tells everyone she is his sister. He does this because he's afraid the Egyptian men will kill him and take the beautiful Sarah for themselves. After God rescues Abraham from Egypt he again gets impatient and decides God must want him to have a son by one of Sarah's handmaids. So, he has Ishmael with the slave Hagar. (SLIDE) Every time Abraham tries to come up with his own solutions and fails to follow God's plan, he runs into more trouble. It almost seems like instead of being the Father of our Faith, he should be our example of what not to do!

Today's scripture reading comes in the midst of that time after God made the promise of many descendants and before Isaac was born. In one of Abram's finer moments, he goes to God in prayer and makes his complaint known to God.

(SLIDE) He basically says, "Hey God. You promised me a legacy and heirs, but so far all I have is Eliezer... Where is this legacy you promised? Finally, for once

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

Abram is honest with God and voices his complaint. If you're waiting for God's righteous anger to smite poor Abram or for God to squash him like a bug under God's ginormous foot, you'll be waiting a long time. God isn't like the Air Force leadership who expect us to come up with our own solutions to our troubles, but God welcomes and encourages us to bring everything that's on our minds to God in our prayers. It's perfectly fine, in fact God approved, to make every complaint we have known to God in our prayers.

Why does God want our complaints? Well for one thing, when we complain to God, we're acknowledging God's existence and God's position as God and ruler of our lives. If we didn't believe in God or that God cared about us, we would never pray. Complaining to God is a sign that we believe God can and will do something about our complaint. Now God may say back to us go and use the resources I've already given to you to solve your problem, or God might give you additional resources to use. God might point out resources you already have, but might not be aware of to solve your problem. God might even give you a blessing and a miracle. It's hard to say how God will solve your complaint, but this much I know for certain, God always listens and always answers.

In our reading today, God takes Abram outside on a clear night and tells him to count the stars, if he can... Rather than limiting Abram to one offspring, God doubles down on the legacy promise and shows Abram his descendants will

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

outnumber even the stars in heaven. Abram trusts God and finally is in the place where God can use him to begin the plan of salvation. One of those descendants will be the Messiah, the chosen one, who will save all of humanity from our sin. The trust Abram finally has in God's promise is what God uses to declare Abraham righteous. Not the brilliance of Abram's solutions to the legacy problem, but his trusting in God for the answers.

How is it in your spiritual and prayer life? (SLIDE) Do you rush in to solve every problem with your own plan and solutions or do you go to God with your concerns and complaints? God wants all your concerns and complaints. Not because God is unaware of them. God already knows everything you need and want, long before you do... God wants us to verbalize our troubles and complaints as a way to relieve us from the crushing weight of carrying those burdens. You might be suffering under a burden of guilt over the past. You might be carrying the heavy weight of serious health and medical problems. It might be the heavy load of debt because of inflation or the loss of income. You might be having trouble in your relationships with your family or friends or co-workers. Whatever it is that is weighing you down, when you give it to God your burden will be lightened. Even better yet, when you trust God to provide the solutions you will be blessed, just like Abram was. Your trust in God to provide for everything you need will be reckoned to you as righteousness. (SLIDE)

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

In theory, all this seems well enough, but our eternal problem is that we, time and again, like Abram, want to take matters into our own hands and tell God what to do and how to solve our problems. We plan and we worry and we fret... In the end, we fail to trust God for our daily bread. God knew long before any of us came along we would never be able to fully trust in God's provisions for our homes and our legacies. That's the whole reason God decided from the start to take our faults and our sinful nature into himself and provide for us, even in the midst of our rebellious and sinful ways. (SLIDE) That plan for salvation was Jesus Christ. God came to us in the flesh to reveal the height, the breadth, and the depth of God's great love for you and for me. God became one of us so we could live with God forever. Jesus Christ is our life and our salvation.

May the God of Abram bless each of us with the same righteousness he gave to Abraham. May you be free to voice your complaints to God knowing God hears you, and loves you. May God be your shield and your strength in times of plenty and times of want. May the God of Abram assure you of your true home with all the saints and give you a legacy of faith that will live on forever. Amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

- **APOSTLES' CREED**

*The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

- \* **PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, trusting in your gracious love and care.

*A brief silence.*

L: For greater trust in you, we pray. Your love is steadfast, and your word is true. Help us to hold onto your promises and walk in your ways. God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: For creatures great and small, we pray. Tend to your creation and inspire us in efforts to protect and care for the earth. God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: For elected officials at all levels, we pray. From local to state to national, help leaders listen to those most in need, and to make decisions grounded in wisdom and compassion for all people. God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: For healing, we pray. Many are isolated or otherwise feel alone in this world. Bring them comfort and connection (*especially...*) God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: For those who are experiencing loss, we pray. Draw near to those who have lost jobs, loved ones, or anything else dear to them. Grant them space to grieve, and uplift them in their sorrow. God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: For all the saints, we pray. Help us to learn about their lives and their witness, and may their faithfulness inspire us in our time to lead faithful lives as well.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 15, 2024

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God, in your mercy,  
**C: Hear our prayer.**  
L: These and all our prayers we lift up to you, O God.  
**C: Amen.**

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## MEAL

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- **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](http://www.pitsburgtlc.org) where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

- **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...God of promise, you fill us with all good things. In gratitude we return to you this small portion of our possessions. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, and use them to further his holy work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

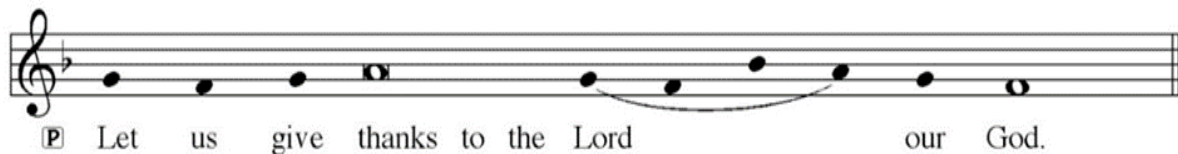
- \* **DIALOGUE**



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.



♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.



♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



♩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated

\* **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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\* **THE SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

\* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 15, 2024

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\* **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: With all of God’s children throughout all times and places, who outnumber the stars, Jesus invites us into his presence in this holy meal. Come and receive blessing and forgiveness.

• **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**

*The blessing is said to all after the distribution by station. It is said after each table is fed at the railing.*

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever, amen.



**\* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\* 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**

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**SENDING**

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**• ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**• SENDING BLESSING**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

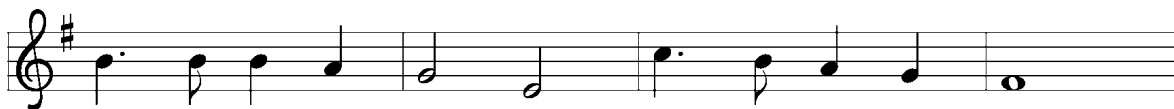
September 15, 2024

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• **SENDING HYMN**

**“On Our Way Rejoicing”**

**ELW 537**



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

• **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!**

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 15, 2024

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**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

**Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** When feeling overly stressed, take deep relaxing breaths.  
**MIND:** Read a humorous book.  
**SPIRIT:** Surprise someone.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.



**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
- Please be seated

**This Week @ Trinity – September 15 thru September 22, 2024:**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>Sun, Sept. 15</b>	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
<b>Wed, Sept. 18</b>	10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
<b>Thurs, Sept. 19</b>	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at Firehouse BBQ & Blues, 400 N. 8 <sup>th</sup> St., Richmond
<b>Fri, Sept. 20</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, Sept. 22</b>	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”

**Save The Date!**

<b>September 28, 2024</b>	<b>WELCA Biennial Convention</b>
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**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:	<a href="mailto:pastor@pitsburgtlc.org">pastor@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@pitsburgtlc.org">secretary@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	<a href="http://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a>

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated