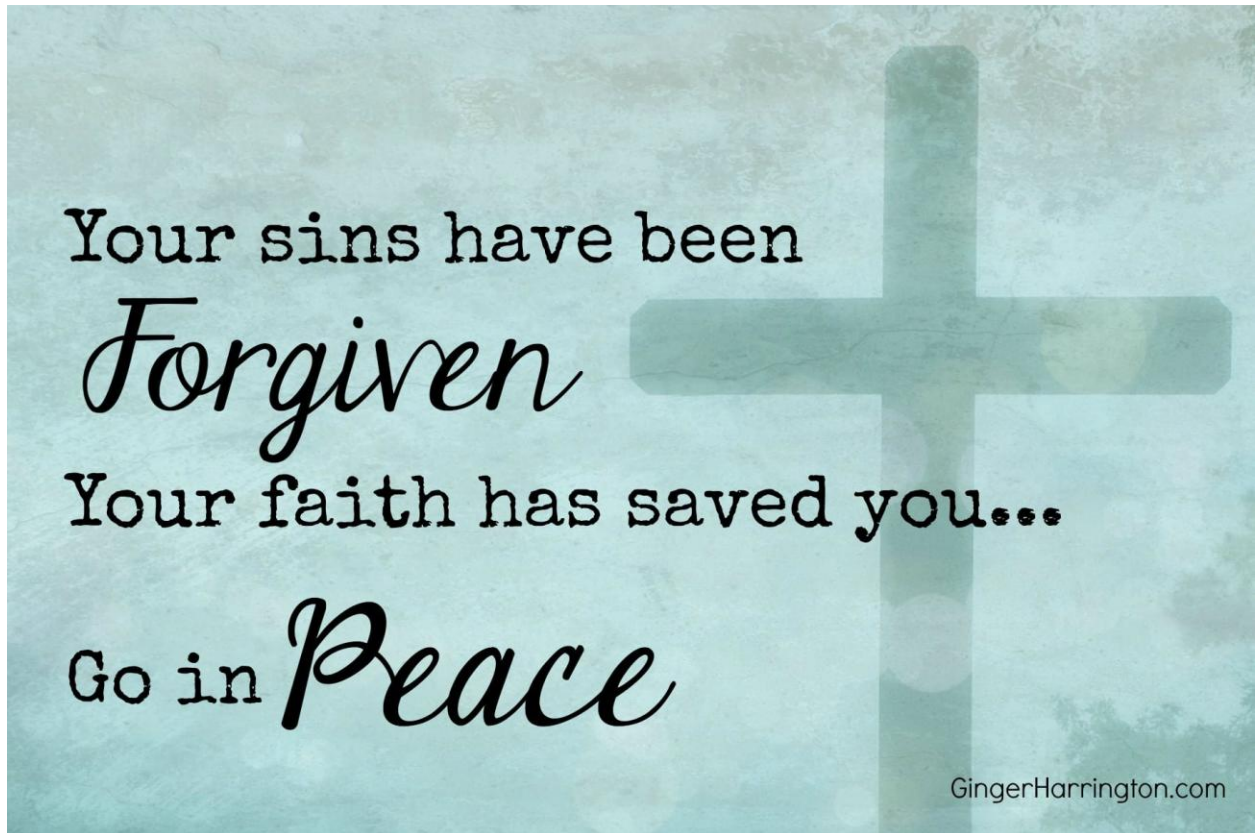


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Luke 7:36-50
February 23, 2025



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



GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Pam Sherman**

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

- **Welcome** **Pr. Mel Musser**

- * **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

* **GATHERING HYMN “Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” LBW 559**



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fearsand bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he sets the pris - 'ner free.
5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul - est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

* **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 embrace and extend the forgiveness and compassion we witness in Jesus' actions. May we live in grateful and faithful response to your immeasurable love. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Showing our love for Jesus
Materials: a Party Invitation
Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Have you ever been invited to a party? Maybe you got an invitation like this one in the mail. It's nice to be invited, isn't it? Have you ever heard of anyone who heard about a party and went even though they were not invited? Usually, we don't go to parties unless we are invited. In our Bible lesson today a woman did exactly that. I think we may be surprised to learn what Jesus said about her.

A man named Simon invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. Simon was a member of a very strict religious group called Pharisees. He invited Jesus into his home because he had heard about all of the miraculous things that he had been doing and that many people thought that he was a prophet. He wanted everyone to know Jesus had visited his home so it would make him look important in the eyes of his friends. As they began to eat dinner, a woman with a very bad reputation in the town came into the house. She heard Jesus had been invited to eat there and wanted to see him and be near him. Because she loved him so much, she began to cry. Her tears fell on the feet of Jesus and, since she had nothing with which to dry his feet, the woman knelt down and began to dry the feet of Jesus with her hair. Then she took some expensive perfume and began to rub it on his feet.

Simon was upset by what he saw and thought to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him and would have nothing to do with her. She's a sinner!" Jesus could see Simon was upset, but his response to Simon was quite surprising. He said to him, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I came into your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she hasn't stopped kissing my feet. You didn't give me the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." Which person in this story are we most like? Are we like the Pharisee who thought he was too good to associate with sinners, or are we like the uninvited guest who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears of love and anointed him with her best perfume?

Let's pray... Jesus, our Savior, may the love which we show for you reflect the love which you first showed for us. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 7.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him – that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." ⁴¹"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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 can even forgive your sins, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

How many of you have played the children's game of Simon says either as an adult or in your youth? (**SLIDE**) I used to love that game as a kid. I used to wonder why it was Simon Says and not Mommie Says or Billy says or my personal

favorite, Mel Says... Today our Gospel from Luke tells the story of a different kind of Simon Says. Luke offers us either Simon Says or Savior Says. Which game will you choose? We meet the real Simon in our Gospel lesson. This Simon was probably not the one Simon Says was named after, but rather he was a Pharisee – a religious leader who thought the way to heaven was by keeping God’s laws. (SLIDE) Jesus disagreed with Simon. He said salvation comes to us through faith in his works not our works. That’s the big, beautiful difference between Simon Says and Savior Says.

Our text describes how Simon invited Jesus to his house for dinner. When Jesus arrived, however, it became clear Simon didn’t think very highly of him. The normal courtesies - the greeting kiss and water to wash the feet - were not offered Jesus. (SLIDE) Picture the father who refuses to shake the hand of his daughter’s boyfriend and fails to offer to take his coat when he comes over for dinner. So why did Simon invite Jesus if he didn’t like him? Apparently, he wanted to observe Jesus more closely. (SLIDE) Many were saying Jesus was a great prophet, perhaps even the promised Messiah. Simon dismissed those ideas when a woman with a sinful reputation came up to where Jesus was reclining at the banquet table and began crying. She cried so much her tears began to wet Jesus’ feet. She then let down her hair and wiped Jesus’ feet dry with it. Finally, she kissed his feet and poured expensive perfume on them! (SLIDE) You can almost see the look of disdain as Simon watched and thought to himself: “If this man were

a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” The fact that Jesus didn’t shun this sinful woman, shows the game of Savior Says plays by a different set of rules than the rules Simon was following. Simon thought the Messiah would only welcome those who lived according to God’s commands, as Simon himself thought he had done.

Jesus set Simon straight... Knowing what Simon was thinking, Jesus said, Hey Simon, let me tell you a story... Like the two men in the parable, the woman and Simon owed a debt incurred by their sin neither could repay to God. Simon may not have been guilty of the same type of public sin the woman had committed, but he could hardly say he was without sin. The writer of the letters from John reminds us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. So, Simon was at least guilty of the sin of looking down on others. How many times in a day are we guilty of labeling people as Simon did? (SLIDE) I notice a man whose shirt is untucked, face unshaven and I think, “What a slob.” What I may not know is that he was up all night with a sick a child.

The thought came to me as I read this story over several times this week, Why is Jesus even bothering to associate with either one of these sinners, Simon or the sinful woman? I found an interesting analogy. (SLIDE) Suppose you were swimming in the ocean and got caught up in the rip current and needed a lifeguard. The first lifeguard sees you struggling through his binoculars. He gets out his megaphone and starts shouting directions at you to swim faster. (SLIDE) Come

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

on, stroke harder, he calls. Keep your head up. Swim faster! He shouts. The whole time you are being swept out further and further. Finally, a second lifeguard sees your predicament. Instead of barking commands from the shore, this savior jumps into the water and drags you to the safety of the shore. Which lifeguard do you prefer? The one who tells you to try harder or the one who actually runs into the water to rescue you? I'll take the later, thank you very much! I can't achieve salvation by my own efforts, no matter how much coaching, admonishing, or shaming. My own efforts will never overcome the rip currents of my sin and neither can yours. On the other hand, we have a savior who jumped down here into this thing we call life in order to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Now if you're an astute reader and pay attention to the details of this story, you might be asking yourself a very good question. If salvation depends on Jesus alone, why does Jesus say to the woman only after her acts of love and devotion that her sins, which were many, have been forgiven? The misunderstanding comes from a language difference between the ancient Greek of our text and our modern English. The verb Jesus used when he told the woman her sins had been forgiven was in the Greek "Perfect" tense. English doesn't have a perfect tense. The perfect tense of a verb refers to an action that happened in the past, but has ongoing effects into the present and even into the future. In English Jesus says to her, "Your sins are forgiven." In the original Greek it would be more like, "Your sins

have been forgiven and they are still being forgiven and they will always and forever be forgiven.” Her forgiveness happened before our story took place and was still happening during their dinner party and she continued to be forgiven as long as she had the breath of life. Her tears and anointing of Jesus were her responses to the forgiveness she had already and was still receiving. I think it works something like this... When you see smoke on the horizon you ask, “What’s burning?” (SLIDE) The smoke isn’t the cause of the fire, it’s the evidence that there is a fire. Just like the smoke, the woman’s love for Jesus is evidence of her great forgiveness. In other words, her love for Jesus wasn’t the price of his forgiveness, it was the proof that she was in fact forgiven.

That leads us into yet another conundrum. Jesus tells her, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” If it was her faith that saved her, then what is faith? Once again, in the Greek language, there’s one word we get translated in English as either faith, belief, trust, or hope. In Greek, all those words are equivalent in meaning. It was her trust in the power of Jesus to forgive that saved her. Here’s the difference between this sinful woman and Simon the Pharisee. Suppose Simon and this sinful woman are both on the same sinking ship in the middle of the ocean. (SLIDE) The woman believes and trusts her life vest will save her, while Simon thinks he needs no life vest and he will be able to swim under his own power all the way to shore.

Our own efforts and good works will never earn our way to heaven, but they are like the beautiful rays of sunshine that come from a forgiven heart. (SLIDE)

That's the purest kind of love we humans are capable of. We're kind and loving to others because it just comes naturally from a heart that knows the love and forgiveness of God. Without that forgiven heart, all our good and kind deeds can only come from a prideful arrogant heart that only knows how to satisfy the desires of the flesh and Saint Paul might say. So, which game are you in? Are you still playing Simon says or can you, on a good day, put down your need to work out your own salvation, and pick up the mantle of faith and play Savior Says?

May you experience the love and forgiveness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Once we've known the love and forgiveness Jesus earned for us, may we offer that same love and forgiveness to those who have never known the love and grace of Jesus. Let's pray... Lord, because we have been forgiven much, help us to now love much. In Jesus' name, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy” **LBW 290**



1 There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there’s a kind - ness in his jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the e - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth’s sor - rows are more felt than up in heav’n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more sim - ple, we should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth’s fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv’n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the head.
 and our lives would be all sun - shine in the sweet - ness of our Lord.

* **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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: As we seek your forgiveness, help us to release the burdens of shame and guilt. Help us to come to you with sincerity and renew our hearts and lives. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bring restoration and healing to all of creation, especially areas most affected by natural disasters or from lack of care. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless leaders in our local communities with open hearts and minds. Guide them with your ways as they navigate the challenges of governance. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer

L: Pour out your grace on those facing injustice and affliction, illness or addiction, injury or grief. Bring restoration and healing to all in need (*especially...*) God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Sustain nonprofits and organizations dedicated to helping and uplifting communities. Multiply their resources and help them make a positive impact with their work. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: May the stories of saints who have gone before us encourage us to seek reconciliation and healing in our lives and communities. 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.

- * **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ... God, we offer these gifts out of such love as was shown by the woman with the jar of ointment. Accept and use them to lavish hospitality and welcome to all who suffer want. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

- * **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.

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

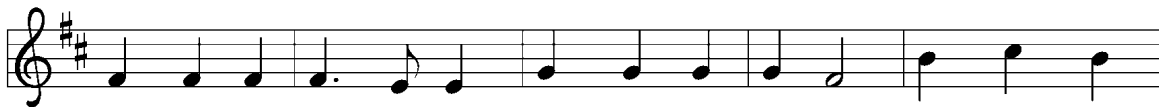
P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

* **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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* Please stand if able

February 23, 2025

• Please be seated

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 2nd
Luke 9:28-45

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Try working on a sudoku game.

BODY: Be sure to drink water.

SPIRIT: Watch the Chosen series.



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 – February 23 thru March 2, 2025:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Feb. 23	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Tues, Feb. 25	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Feb. 28	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Mar. 2	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

Save The Date!

Tuesday, March 4 @ 6 pm	Shrove “Fat” Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 5 @ 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesdays - March 12, 19, 26 & April 2 & 9 @ 6 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible Study Discussion
April 17 @ 7 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18 @ 7 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
April 20 @ 8 am	Early Worship Service
9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am	Late Worship Service

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.

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Trinity Contact Info

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Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated