

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA 510-522-5220

Mission: To be a caring and diverse community of people who know and share the love of God through Jesus Christ.

June 17, 2018 The Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

www.trinityalameda.org

Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

Craig Minich, Pastor: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program

Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH. *You are invited to join with us as we seek to be God's loving community for all who enter here. You are received as a friend . . .*

- *just as you are, created by God.*
- *whatever your color, culture and customs, your age, abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.*
- *wherever circumstances find you... in the midst of change or challenge or pain, in need of strength and hope, or in search of spiritual fullness and friendship.*
- *whether you are a new visitor or an old friend, have no church home, have doubts or do not believe, or want to follow Christ and pursue peace and justice in Christ's name.*

You are embraced as an expression of the diversity and beauty of the creation God has given us.

You are welcome here!

*The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that our congregation is growing.
Please welcome our youngest brothers and sisters and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.*

✝ THE SERVICE ✝

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Gayom ni hingami (Lord, Your Hands Have Formed this World)

Mark Sedio b. 1954

✝ GATHERING ✝

*(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)*

↑ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✝ forgives you all your sins. Amen.

↑ GATHERING

What Is This Place

#524

↑ GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

↑ KYRIE

Page 184

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie eleison, every day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

For your spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

↓ CHILDREN'S SERMON

Following the Children's Sermon, parents of children who are six or younger are welcome to take their children

to child-care and retrieve them for communion. (10:30 worship service only)

✠ **WORD** ✠

↓ **FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ **Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

↓ **SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **Page 188**

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Al-le-lu-ia... al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,

Al-le-lu-ia... al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

↑ **GOSPEL**

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↑HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#793

↓RITE OF PASSAGE

↑ APOSTLES' CREED page 105

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(The congregation is encouraged to take the position which is most prayerful to you.)

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

✠ MEAL ✠

↑SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

↓OFFERING

Here I Am, Lord

Anne Marie David

↑PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Hymn *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

#885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

↑OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING **Page 190**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.

↑ PREFACE FOR THE DAY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

↑ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **190**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

↑ JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

↓ DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. Dip the bread into the cup (intinction). If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing or remain seated.

↓ LAMB OF GOD **Page 191**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

↓ Distribution

I Love to Tell the Story

#661

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Jesus Christ, host of this meal,

you have given us not only this bread and cup,

but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

#550

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

↓ POSTLUDE

Procession

C. S. Lang 1891-1971

Many worshippers choose to stay in the sanctuary to listen to the musical postlude (3-4 minutes).