

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.

April 29, 2018 The Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

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 SERVICE ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *St. Columba (The King of Love My Shepherd Is)* Ronald Arnatt b.1930

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain, for the waters that surround us.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for those newly baptized; for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

↑ **GATHERING**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

#853

↑ **GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

↑ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

Page 4-5 (hymnal insert)

Refrain:

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom: praise and glory forevermore!

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. (refrain)

2. Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. (refrain)

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. (refrain)

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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**

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless

someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

↓ **Psalm 22:25-31**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the

LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

↓ **SECOND READING**

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God

but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑**GOSPEL VERSE**

Alleluia

Page 8 (hymnal insert)

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

↑**GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ **SERMON**

↑ **HYMN**

There in God's Garden

#342

↑ **NICENE CREED**

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 our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Prayer Leader:let us pray.

Congregation: Have mercy, O God.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

↑ **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: 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**

Now the Green Blade Rises
Choir Anthem

arr. Bruce Valentin

Refrain:

***As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.***

***As this cup of blessing once shared within our midst may we share the presence of
your love
(refrain)***

***Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares within your love.
(refrain)***

↑PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

↑OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Be known to us, O Lord,

C: in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

↑THANKSGIVING

P: *The Lord be with you.*

C: And also with you.

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

↑PREFACE FOR THE DAY

P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

↑HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy are you. God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

↑EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all we give you thanks for Jesus,

born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal 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. 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 his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. A - men.

↑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

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

↓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 14 (hymnal insert)

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

2 Lamb of God, you broke the bonds of sin and death; have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us

3 Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us

4 Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love; have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us

5 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

↓**Distribution**

silence

↑**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

↑**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Life-giving God,

C: in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

‡ **SENDING** ‡

↑**BLESSING**

P: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

↑**HYMN**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

#367

↑**DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

↓**POSTLUDE**

Truro

(Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing) Aaron David Miller b. 1972

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

THIS WEEK WE PRAY FOR

Karen Ball, friend of *Saemi Ladue*
Kenny Hallstone, friend of *Ray & Mary Kay Wentz*
Joanne Lee, Sister of *Mary Kay Wentz*
Vicki Taylor, friend of *Mark Schoenrock*
Adriana Garcia, friend of *Mark Schoenrock*
Michael Rasmussen, Nephew of *Sherri & Chuck Bangert*
Alan Peterson, Brother of *Sherri Bangert*
Clarice & Mark Mitchell, Friends of *Demeter Lamb*
Barbara Denis, Sister of *Mary Kay Wentz*
Patrick Stroh, Cousin of *Mary Kay Wentz*
Eric Abrahamson, Son-in-Law of *Don & Margie Sherratt*
Scott Bogart, Son-in-Law of *Don & Margie Sherratt*
Ryan Joseph, Friend of *John Kofranek*
Doug Williams, Former Trinity member
Constance Farber, Former Trinity member
Aimee & Cooper Mantech, Niece and Great-Nephew of *Sherri & Chuck Bangert*
Mikaela Mitchell, Niece of *Mary James*
Claire Trimper, Friend of *Mary James*
Trinity members: **Evelyn Berger, Gail Cromack, Ray Fitzsimons, Kate Ganschow, Dennis Laine**

We give thanks for the life of those having birthdays this week.

Don Groskreutz (5/4)

*We especially remember Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda
this week in our Trinity Cycle of Prayer*