



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA (510) 522-5220  
*Anchored in Faith. Serving Our Neighbor. Singing God's Praise.*

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

### Blessing of the Animals October 9, 2022

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)  
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883  
Rev. Craig Minich, Pastor: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program  
Rev. Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes

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A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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**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**     *All Things Bright and Beautiful*  
Tune: Royal Oak, English tune

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

### ↑ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness, **we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✠ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### ↑ HYMN *Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom*

ACS #1064

- 1** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh, from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop-tall giraffe. All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.*
- 2** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony. Ev'ry creature has a purpose, ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee. Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.*

- 3** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus, and snail, cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae, from the microbe to the whale. In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.*

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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### ↑ GREETING

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Source and sustainer of life, **we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, reveling to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↓ FIRST READING

**Genesis 1:1, 20-28**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every

kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Word of God, Word of Life.      **Thanks be to God.**

↓ **Psalm 148**      (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup>**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup>**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

↓ **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 6:26-29**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ **SERMON**

↓ **CHOIR**      *Lord, Your Hands Have Formed*

Text: Ramon and Sario Ollano Music: Ikalahan (Philippines) traditional  
Tune: Gayom Ni Higami

↓ **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

↑ **APOSTLES' CREED**      **page 105**

Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.)*

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we give you thanks for bishops, pastors, and deacons (*church leaders may be named*). Inspire leaders of the church to proclaim

your mighty deeds, that your saving faith may be known to all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and all your animals. Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures and guard them from all evil. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, we give you thanks for those in our community, nation, and world who work for justice and peace. Guide those who govern to act on behalf of those marginalized by race, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we give you thanks that you hear the cries of those in need. Restore to community those who are stigmatized by illness, feel rejected, or who live in isolation. Send healing to all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, we give you thanks for the healing ministries of this congregation. Equip those who visit, care, and pray for the sick *Brad Wentz, Vincent Maloney, George Lyon, Sandra Schleske, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Ann Kenyon, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, Craig Anderson, Pastor Craig, Marilyn, Michael Rasmussen, Hilke de Arce, Jackson Bohm, Buddy and Sherri Scott, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Geoff Kline, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Willie Prewitt, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* Give insight to doctors, nurses, home health aides, and all practitioners of medical arts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda, the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes, our Sunday School, and the East Bay Lutheran Youth Program. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, we give you thanks for the healing ministries of this congregation. Equip those who visit, care, and pray for the sick. Give insight to doctors, nurses, home health aides, and all

practitioners of medical arts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

At this time, you are invited to pray the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

*A moment is offered for prayers from the congregation*

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your faithful people who have gone before us to your glory. Renew our trust in your eternal promises of mercy, redemption, and new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### ✠ MEAL ✠

#### ↑ SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

*The offering baskets will not be passed through the congregation at this time. Please place your offering in the basket placed on the stand in the middle aisle of the sanctuary.*

#### ↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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 Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, in the highest.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho-sanna in the high-est.

↑ 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, 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.

↓ DISTRIBUTION

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and give you peace.  
Amen.

↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

↓ BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

↓ HYMN *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

#680 vs. 1 & 3

- We plow the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand,  
who sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.*
- We thank you, our creator,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
for all your love imparts  
but what you most would treasure—  
our humble, thankful hearts.*

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.; Spanish tr. Ernesto Barocio, 1866-1948

↓ DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.  
Thanks be to God.

↓ POSTLUDE *Let All Things Now Living*

Tune: The Ash Grove, Welsh folk tune Arr. Sherri Hansen  
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*Many worshippers choose to stay in the sanctuary  
to listen to the musical postlude (3-4 minutes).*

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