



## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 22, 2023**

**7:00pm**

[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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On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

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# ✠ THE SERVICE ✠

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

**PRELUDE**      *My Heart Is Longing*  
Tune: *Princess Eugenie*, Norwegian folk tune  
Arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

### ↓ GATHERING *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* #599

- 1** *Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free  
and make me pure within.*
- 2** *Lord Jesus, think on me,  
by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be  
and taste your promised rest.*
- 3** *Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point out your chosen way.*
- 4** *Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.*

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

### ↓ WELCOME

#### ↑ 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.**

#### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, **out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

#### ↓ FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- <sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them in ages to come.  
<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.  
<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.  
<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

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

**↓PSALM**

Psalm 103:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

**↓SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in

anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.****↑GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,

where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

#### ↓MEDITATION

↑HYMN *Change My Heart, O God* #801  
*Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.  
You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.*

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953  
Text © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

#### ↓INVITATION TO LENT

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. We begin this return by acknowledging our need for repentance, our need for reconciliation with God and our neighbor, and our need for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### ↑CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### *Silence for reflection and self-examination*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## ↓ BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, as each pew is dismissed saying:*

*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## ↑ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Today we pray especially for *Joan Lang, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Michael Schulter, Alan Ferris, Paul Koski, Joanne Robinson, Wes & Marla Anderson, Mike Bonifield, Anne Winberg, Elena Sweet, Tim Bangert, Constance & Stephen Mann, Barry Toomajian, David Johnson, Alan Petersen, Vincent Maloney, George Lyon, 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.*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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*

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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.**

## ↑ 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.**

### ↓ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ↓ 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. Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

### ↑ BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

## ↑ HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* #793 vs. 1 & 4

**1** *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;*

*naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

**4** *Light of my soul, after victory won,*

*may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!*

*Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,*

*still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

### ↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**