



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.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 5, 2023

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

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others.

Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

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 ✠

PRELUDE

Christ, Be Our Light

Text and music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

*health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.*

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

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.

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. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *God, Whose Almighty Word* #673 v.1-2

1 *God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.*

2 *Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;*

↑ 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.**

↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God* p. 204

*Glory be to God in heaven;
peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation,
Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.*

*Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.*

*Holy One we now acclaim you;
Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit,
glory be to God on high!*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,

and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

↓ Psalm 112:1-10 (read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the
righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will
be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their
righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold
up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will
gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of
the wicked will perish.**

↓ SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not
come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty
words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing
among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in
much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation
were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a
demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that
your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on
the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom,
though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers
of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we
speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God
decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the

rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

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

↑GOSPEL **Matthew 5:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven;

but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *Jesus, the Light of the World*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1701-1788 Tune: *We’ll Walk in the Light*, traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin, 1845-1928

↑ 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.)

You may choose to sit or stand as you are comfortable.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and

communities experiencing natural disasters.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way, especially *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.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda, the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes, our Sunday School, and the East Bay Lutheran Youth Program. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Colleen Vermillion, Zack Kelly, Geoff Burnaford and Rosalyn Luque as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. 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

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness.

Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

Page 173

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.

↓INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

Thanks be to God!

↓DISTRIBUTION

↓LAMB OF GOD

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*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

↑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. Holy One, **we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.**

Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑HYMN *Go, Make Disciples* #540 vs. 1, 2

*"Go, make disciples,
baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples,
for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth.
Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill,
so all can see that you're serving me.*

*Go, make disciples,
baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples,
for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth.
Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill,
so all can see that you're serving me.
Go, make disciples."*

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Text © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

Tune: Enviado Text and music: Anonymous, Central America

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