



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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 19, 2023

www.trinityalameda.org
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883
Rev. Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes

The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ.

“I was blind, now I see,” declares the man.

In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children.

As David was anointed king of Israel, so in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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

Jesu dulcis memoria

Arr. Charles Callahan

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✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

#339 vs. 1 & 3

1 *Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

3 *Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.*

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

↑ GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑ KYRIE

p. 98-99

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. **By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to

the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

↓ Psalm 23 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

↓ SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

↓ GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner

perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said

to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR

The Gospel of Grace

Traditional spirituals Arr. Mark Hayes

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↑ APOSTLES' CREED

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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.

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

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially *Pehr Markusson, the family of Stephen Mann, the family of Alan Ferris, the family of Paul Cianciolo, Peter Dow, Kimberly Gutleben Sanchez, Joan Lang, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Paul Koski, Joanne Robinson, Wes & Marla Anderson, Mike Bonifield, Elena Sweet, Tim Bangert, Constance Farber, Barry Toomajian, 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.* Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; Alameda Christian Reformed Church, 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 Mike Luque, Jackson Bohn, Karen Haines and Lou O'Connell as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Be with those preparing to receive communion for the first time. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

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

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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.

↑ 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Ho-san-na, in the high-est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na 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 receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **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 mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy 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. 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

↑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.**

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* #768 vs. 1 & 3 *Refrain*

***Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

- 1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain***
- 2. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without...thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain***

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

Tune: *Consolation* Arr. Anne Krentz Organ ©2001 Augsburg Fortress

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

Please join us after worship for a simple fellowship time of cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/20 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 3/21 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/22 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
7:00pm Lenten MidWeek Worship
Thurs 3/23 7:30pm Council Meeting (meets in the Fellowship Hall)

STEEPED IN STORIES BOOK DISCUSSION

This month, we are reading *Emily of Deep Valley* by Maud Hart Lovelace for our discussion. We hope you will join us for this gathering online. We will meet on Thursday, March 30th at 7pm on Zoom. Please see the weekly email newsletter for more information as well as the link or reach out to Pastor or Jessica to be emailed the link.

REPLACING OUR LIVESTREAMING IPAD Our donated iPad that we need to use for livestreaming services took a spill and the screen is shattered, and repairing the screen costs nearly as much as a refurbished iPad. We are replacing the iPad and expect the cost to be somewhere around \$650 for an iPad and sturdy case. If you would like to contribute to help offset this cost, you may do so by submitting an offering marked "iPad". Thank you in advance!

EASTER EGG HUNT SUPPLIES NEEDED On Easter morning after worship, the Christian Education Committee will host an Easter Egg Hunt. We are looking for donations of "stuffers" to put in the eggs, and some plastic eggs themselves. If you would like to donate candy, small toys (that can fit in plastic eggs), or plastic eggs, please bring them to Trinity and place them in the basket in the church entryway by Sunday, April 2nd. You are welcome to bring eggs already filled, or just the components. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWERS FROM HOME A couple of years ago when we celebrated Easter in our homes, the congregation donated flowers from their gardens to decorate for Easter. The Worship and Music Committee with the Visual Enrichment Committee asks that you help us again this year by bringing flowers from your garden to help us decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday. We ask that you bring your flowers Wednesday, April 5th and Thursday April 6th. We will be arranging the flowers on Good Friday and wouldn't want them to spoil before Easter Sunday. You are welcome to make an arrangement of your own, or you can bring your flowers (in water please) for us to arrange. If you would like the vase or container back, please label the base of the container with your name. Speak to Mary Kay Wentz if you have questions or would like to help.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays this Week:

Mike Luque (3/19)

Jackson Bohm (3/21)

Karen Haines (3/21)

Lou O'Connell (3/26)

Visits from Pastor Stephanie

If you would appreciate a visit from Pastor Stephanie, she is available by phone, text or email to make an appointment. She is happy to visit with you in your home, at her office, or a location of your convenience.

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon-10:00-Noon; Tues. 9am-Noon; Thurs.-10:00-Noon

You can reach Pastor Stephanie on her cell phone at (510) 846-0883