



## 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.*

### Second Sunday of Lent March 5, 2023

[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

---

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all 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 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 *Prelude for Lent* Starr Brown © 2023

## ✠ 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 *As the Winter Days Grow Longer*  
ACS #924 v.1 & 3

- As the winter days grow longer,  
drawing short the hours of night;  
as our eager expectation  
waits for Easter's dawning light—  
yearning people, here we gather,  
turning watchful eyes to you:  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
shine within our world anew!***
- As we journey through this season,  
pilgrims through a thirsty land,  
quench us with your living presence;  
guide us with your loving hand.  
Wand'ring people, here we gather,  
called to rest along our way.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
grant us sabbath joy this day!***

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

### ↑ 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. O God, our leader and guide, **in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ↓ Psalm 121 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,**

**the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**<sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

↓ **SECOND READING**                      **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

↑ **GOSPEL**                                      **John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.              **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ **SERMON**

↓ **CHOIR**              *My Heart Is Longing*

Text: Princess Eugenie of Sweden:  
tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959 Music: Norwegian Folk Song

↑ **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.

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

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Today we pray especially for *the family of Paul Cianciolo, 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.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; University Lutheran Church in Berkeley, 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 Craig Blyeth, Chris Laine, Antonio Ruiz, Helen Pedersen, Elizabeth Madaras and Dorothy Wingire as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. 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 God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after 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

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 Page 108

*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 Page 112-113

*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 *God Loved the World* #323 v. 1-2

**1** *God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.*

**2** *Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.*

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

## ↑ DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE *Processional on Lift High the Cross*

Tune: *Crucifer*, Sydney H. Nicholson Arr. Donald Busarow, 1934-2011  
©Concordia Publishing House. Used with Permission.

All music and liturgy used with permission under Augsburg Fortress Sundays and Seasons Subscription SB132990 and One License A-706480. All rights reserved.