



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 of Easter May 7, 2023

www.trinityalameda.org
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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 *Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies*
(*Mingxing canlan ye wei yang*)

Music: Qi-fang Liang, b. 1934

©1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong

✠ 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, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

↑ **HYMN** *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

#530 vs. 1, 3

1 Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;

Looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.

***As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.***

**3 Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease,
Where, oh where, can weary souls find the source of peace?**

Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:

Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Text: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1900-1995; tr. Everett M. Stowe Music: Japanese Gagaku mode; Isao Koizumi, 1907-1992 Text c. 1958 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company Music c.1958 Isao Koizumi

↑ 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.**

↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia. (repeat)

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his. (refrain)

2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (refrain)

3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. (refrain)

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, **your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

↓ **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

↓ **SECOND READING** **1 Peter 2:2-10**

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you

out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **Page 171**

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

↑ **GOSPEL** **John 14:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR

Christ Is Living

Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917-1972; tr. Martin Seltz

Music: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933-2020

↑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.

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or

natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick, especially *the family and loved ones of Geoff Kline, Chuck LaBel, the family of Paul Koski, Peter Dow, Kimberly Gutleben Sanchez, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Wes & Marla Anderson, Elena Sweet, 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, Michael Rasmussen, Jackson Bohm, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Willie Prewitt, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Joanne Robinson and Carol Blomberg as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. 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

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ 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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into 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

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

↑ 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

↓ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. Thanks be to God!

↓ DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. **Gluten-free wafers are offered for those who have need. Please indicate your need to the pastor as you approach to receive the host.** If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing or remain seated.*

↓ 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. Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ HYMN *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* #377 vs. 1, 5

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**5 City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain**

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

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POSTLUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

Based on a melody by Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615

Arr. Healey Willan, 1880-1968 ©1950 & 1978 Concordia
Publishing House

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 43

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 5/8 *Dine & Connect hosted at Trinity*
Tues 5/9 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 5/10 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
 7:00pm SET Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DATE Our Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21st immediately following worship. This year we do not have any Council Members leaving, but if you are interested in being a part of Council, please speak with Anita Burnaford. At this meeting we will be reviewing our financial position for the first quarter of 2023, as well as other agenda items that Council will identify at their May 18th meeting. Please join us for the meeting and the following time of fellowship with coffee hour hosted by the Council.

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH Our God is Lord of the universe. People all over the world worship God in their own languages with their own music, so it makes sense that the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal contains hymns from many different countries which allow us to feel a part of this broader church. In the month of May, Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we will sing or listen to hymns from our Asian sisters and brothers.

SAVE THE DATE- Trinity Choir Concert

Which couple's special song from their high school days was "Theme from *A Summer Place*"? Join us on Sunday, June 4, at 3:00 to find out! The Trinity choir presents "Make a Joyful Noise" which will feature vocal duets, organ, piano, flute, choir songs and more. Refreshments follow. Come and bring your friends to this free concert.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN-SAVE THE DATE! Trinity will host a Family Mingle for families with young children on Saturday, June 3rd from 3:30pm-5:30pm. We'll provide a BBQ dinner in the backyard of Trinity while the kids play and the adults can mingle. Games and crafts for the kids provided, this event is a free evening of fun. Family RSVP's are requested by contacting Jessica in the office either by email or call/text: trinityalameda@gmail.com, (510) 812-4752.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays this Week:

Joanne Robinson (5/9)

Carol Blomberg (5/12)

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