



# 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.*

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2023

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)  
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

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God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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**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 ✠

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

### ↑ CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### ↑ 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.**

### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, **we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↓ FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

### ↓ Psalm 65:1-13

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to  
your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied  
by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of  
your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your  
righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of  
all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far  
away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their  
waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will  
tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the  
dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you  
make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of  
water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide  
for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the  
ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground  
and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your  
paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for  
grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,

and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## ↓SECOND READING

**Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

## ↑GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ↓SERMON

### ↑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.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Today we pray especially for *the family of Don Sherratt, the family of Vincent Maloney, the family of Randi Strom, Chris Laine, Judy Lamb, Jason Hayes, Bernadette Hunsaker, Lacy Wentz, Jack Garcia, Carmen Hernandez, Maria Bonino, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Wes & Marla Anderson, Elena Sweet, Constance Farber, Barry Toomajian, Alan Petersen, 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, First Baptist Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Mardy Groskreutz and Harvey Blomberg as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. 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*

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### ↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

### ↓ OFFERING

### ↑ 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 God 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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 (spoken)

**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

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good. **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.*

## ↑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. We thank you, generous God, **for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your**

**generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### ↑BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

### ↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 36

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 7/17      9:30am      Craft Group  
Tues 7/18      7:30am      Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Wed 7/19      *No Bible Study this week*

**PASTOR STEPHANIE AWAY THIS WEEK** Pastor Stephanie will be away this week for Continuing Education in Arizona. She will return to the office on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jessica or Anita with anything you may need in her absence.

**RELAY FOR LIFE** Join Trinity's Terrific Trekker's next Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 10am at Leydecker Park in Alameda for this year's Relay for Life event. You may contribute to raising money for cancer by donating to American Cancer Society- please give your checks made out to American Cancer Society to Joanne Robinson in order for it to be counted towards our team goal of \$1,000. To dedicate a luminaria and for any questions, please see Joanne.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DON SHERRATT** The memorial service for our beloved Don Sherratt will take place on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> (Don's Birthday) at Christ Episcopal Church (1700 Santa Clara Ave- corner of Grand and Santa Clara) at 2:00pm. Parking is challenging there, please consider carpooling or walking if you are able.

**TAIZE SERVICES.** Taizé services are held on the 4th Friday of the month, at St. Joseph's Basilica at 8:00pm. We are all invited to attend and to bring a friend! Geoff Burnaford is a part of the musical group that brings this service to the community. Taizé is a prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character. Taizé music often takes the structure of an ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and is meant to serve as a kind of musical centering prayer. *The next Taizé service will be held on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Mardy Groskreutz (7/16)  
Harvey Blomberg (7/18)

### **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