



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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023

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

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Tune: St. George's, Windsor, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893
Arr. Charles Callahan, b. 1951 ©1993 Birnamwood Publications, a division of
MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ CONFESSON 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.**

↑ HYMN *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* #680

- We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.***
- You only are the maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you,***

***by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.***

- We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts
but what you most would treasure—
our humble, thankful hearts.***

↑ 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.**

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE Page 4-5 (hymnal insert)

***Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom:
praise and glory forevermore!***

- 1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. (refrain)***
- 2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. (refrain)***
- 3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
people of God; to make all things new. (refrain)***

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, **you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to
come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you

from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

↓ **Psalm 86:11-17**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

↓ **SECOND READING** **Romans 8:12-25**

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we

ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **Page 8 (hymnal insert)**

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

↑ **GOSPEL** **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

↓HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat* #465
Refrain

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.*

1 *As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love.
(Refrain)*

2 *Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you.
(Refrain)*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Chicago, IL 60638.

↑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.

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.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Today we pray especially for *the family of Don Sherratt, Judy Lamb, Chris Laine, 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 Congregational Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Bob Kenyon Kenyon and Pastor Ned as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. 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

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. 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.

↑SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

↓OFFERING

↓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.

✠ 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

↑HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* #679 vs. 1, 3

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount*

In the setting of Peter Tschaikowsky's *Concerto*, Op. 23

Arr. Cindy Berry ©1989 Pilot Point Music

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 42

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 7/24 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 7/25 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 7/26 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DON SHERRATT The memorial service for our beloved Don Sherratt will take place on Wednesday, July 26th (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 this Friday, July 28th.*

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. PROJECT AT TRINITY This year for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, we will be compiling kits for Lutheran World Relief. The list of items for kits is very specific. Mission and Service Committee will be collecting the items for the kits from now until the end of August. We are hoping to complete at least 50 kits. Please take a look at the following list and bring any items you would like to contribute to Trinity and place them in the designated area in the church entryway. We'll keep you updated with the completion of the collection of each item as they come in. Please contact Jessica or Kathy Booker with any questions.

We need 50 of each of these items:

- *light weight bath-size towel- brand new
- *adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- *sturdy comb, (you can donate a package of them and we will remove packaging when we compile kits)
- *metal nail clippers
- and 100 bath size bars of soap-in packaging (2 will go in each kit)

All items must be brand new

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bob Kenyon (7/24)
Pastor Ned (7/24)

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