



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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023

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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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, meine Freude

Johann Gottfried Walther 1684-1748

✠ 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 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 *Gather Us In* #532 vs. 1 & 4

- 1** *Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*
- 4** *Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.*

***Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

↑ 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. Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or

counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

↓ Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long
for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always
do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach ¹ me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people
do not keep your teaching.**

↓ SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,

will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-33, 44-52

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

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the

righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *Neither Death Nor Life* #622 vs. 1 & 4 *Refrain*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

1 *Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life.*
Refrain

4 *All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Romans 8
Text © 2001 GIA Publications, Chicago, IL

↑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.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially *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.* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, First Presbyterian Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Marvera Kline as she

celebrates her birthday this week. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. God, in your mercy, **hear 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

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 Page 11 (hymnal insert)

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

Page 207

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, ho-sanna in the high-est.

↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

↑LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.

Jesus, remember us in your love as we pray:
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.*

↓LAMB OF GOD Page 14 (hymnal insert)

- 1 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
- 2 Lamb of God, you break the chains of hatred and fear; have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
- 3 Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us**
- 4 Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love; have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us**
- 5 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace, 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. 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

↑HYMN *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* #547

- 1 *Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.***
- 2 *With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.***

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1964 World Library Publications

↑DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

Tune: Cym Rhondda, John Hughes, 1873-1932
Arr. Anne Krentz Organ ©2001 Augsburg Fortress

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

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 34

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 7/31	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 8/1	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 8/2	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 8/3	7:30pm	Mission & Service Cmte meeting (fellowship hall)

TRINITY WELCOMES REV. WLL SCOTT THIS MORNING The Rev. Will Scott is Associate Rector at Christ Church. Originally from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Will's studies took him to college in Massachusetts (Bard College at Simon's Rock), India, Tibet, and Nepal, and a seminary in the DC suburbs (Virginia Theological Seminary). Will moved to California in 2006 with his husband Matt to work at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Since then, Will has served as Vicar of a small urban church (St. Cyprian's), Program Director for a statewide interfaith climate education and policy advocacy organization (Interfaith Power & Light), and as a development and alumni/ae relations staff person for an ecumenical seminary in Berkeley (Pacific School of Religion). Having begun his role at Christ Church in March 2020, Will's responsibilities include children and youth programming and welcoming new members. Will lives in El Cerrito and enjoys gardening, long walks, and watching sci-fi with Matt and their cat, Raven.

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- **we are in most need of this item!**
 - *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

COMING UP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN Our next event for families with young children will be a Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday August 12th. Families with young children are welcome to join us for dinner and a showing of Pixar's "Luca". Please contact Jessica in the office to RSVP for dinner planning. If you know a family with children that you'd like to give an invitation to, please grab a flyer from the narthex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Marvera Kline (8/5)

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