



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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2023

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

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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

Thy Holy Wings

Tune: *Bred Dina Vida Vingar*, Swedish folk tune
Arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 ©1997 Augsburg Fortress

✠ 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.**

↑ HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#886 vs. 1-4

- Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!***
- My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.***

**3 *The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.***

**4 *He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

↑ 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. God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

↓Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

↓SECOND READING Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace* #684 vs. 1, 3, 4

**1 *Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.***

**3 *Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.***

**4 *Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.***

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin.
Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

↓RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

↑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, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick. Today we pray especially for *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, Grace Lao Lutheran Church in Richmond, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Pam Lothian and Megan Irish as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. 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

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. 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 our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

↑ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Page 11-12 (hymnal insert)

***Holy, holy, holy are you. God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!***

↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER Page 12 (hymnal insert)

You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal 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. 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.

Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

*Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

↑ THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST...

Page 13 (hymnal insert)

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. A - men.

Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our father as we pray:

↑ 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.*

↓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 *Rise, Shine, You People!* #665 vs. 1-3

**1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has
entered**

***our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.***

**2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.**

**3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness
hurling.**

***To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.***

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Blessed Assurance*

Tune: *Assurance*, Phoebe Knapp, 1830-1908
Arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 ©2005 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: 35

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 8/21	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 8/22	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 8/23	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 8/24	7:30pm	Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. PROJECT AT TRINITY **UPDATE!**

Thank you for all of your offerings to this project. We are almost there! We are still in need of these items:

*sturdy comb, **10 more needed** (you can donate a package of them and we will remove packaging when we compile kits)

*metal nail clippers- **26 more needed**

All items must be brand new Please contact Jessica or Kathy Booker with any questions.

On Sunday, September 10th (God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday), we will put together kits after worship. Please come to coffee hour, hosted by Mission and Service, and stay for a few minutes to help us put together the kits. Many hands make light work!

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT THE SURVEY FROM THE SET TEAM? If you have not yet filled out your Pastoral Duty Survey from the SET team and need a new one, please find copies in the narthex this morning. You may return your survey to the offering plate, in the mail slot in Jessica's door or give your survey to a member of the SET team (Anita, Karol, Ken, Chuck or Stan). Thank you for your valuable input!

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, August 25th.*

STEEPED IN STORIES The next Zoom meeting for Steeped in Stories is Wednesday, August 30th at 7pm. We are reading *Little Women*. Please join us! Contact Pastor Stephie or Jessica for the Zoom link.

JESSICA'S POSTED OFFICE HOURS Jessica's Thursday office hours will be in flux over the next several weeks while she cares for the needs of Jason as recovers from illness and upcoming heart surgery. She will be working remotely, and is available by email or text/phone call and by appointment if you need to see her in the office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Pam Lothian (8/20)
Megan Irish (8/26)

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