



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.*

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023

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

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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

✠ 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 God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Build Us Up, Lord* #670

**1 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will;
form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the world:
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother.**

Refrain

***Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;
we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word
to spread the news of your Son!***

**2 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
let our lives reflect your glory.**

***Cast away all our doubts and fears;
help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure.
Grant us faith that's steadfast and true.
Refrain***

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

↑ 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. O God, **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is
worthless,

you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,

but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

↓Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with
integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not
faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

↓SECOND READING **Romans 12:9-21**

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual
affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do
not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere
in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one
another; do not be haughty, but associate with the
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do
not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for
what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so
far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room
for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is
mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your
enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty,
give them something to drink; for by doing this you
will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be
overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that
Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo
great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief
priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third
day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began
to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This
must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and
said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; for you are setting your
mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to
become my followers, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those
who want to save their life will lose it, and those
who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what
will it profit them if they gain the whole world but
forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for
their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in
the glory of his Father, and then he will repay
everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you,
there are some standing here who will not taste

death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR

Bind Us Together

Text and Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946 ©1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) by Integrity's Hosanna! Music

↑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.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. 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.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Joy, we give thanks for walking with us on our journey toward our Synod Assembly. Your presence has brought what was needed to this path and we are grateful. Thank you for the opportunities before us and the challenges that will bring full growth and strength to our synod. Fill us all with your peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Sherri Bangert, Dan Norboe and Christine Winberg as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God, **receive 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

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **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 pray to you as your children:

↑ 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

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.
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. Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus,
the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by
this food, send us to gather the world to your
banquet, where none are left out and all are
satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all
names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you
now and forever. **Amen.**

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑HYMN *Let Streams of Living Justice* #710 vs. 1,3

**1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.**

**3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.**

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 37

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/4	<i>Trinity offices closed for Labor Day</i>	
	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 9/5	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 9/6	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thurs 9/7	7:30pm	Mission & Service Committee meeting (fellowship hall)

SAVE THE DATE!! Coming soon- Oktoberfest at Trinity! Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 7th for a fun, freshly-made German themed dinner consisting of brats, red cabbage, sauerkraut, German potato salad and apple strudel. The event will begin at 4:00pm. Cost will be \$20 per person, with all proceeds being directed to repair of our kitchen sewer line. Information on how to reserve your spot and flyers to invite your friends coming soon!

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. PROJECT AT TRINITY

Thank you for all of your offerings to this project! Please come help us put together kits after worship on Sunday, September 10th and enjoy coffee hour hosted by the Mission & Service Committee.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UPS AVAILABLE As we enter a new season, please take a look at our sign up sheet in the Narthex for open weeks to provide our coffee hour fellowship following Sunday worship.

Responsibilities include making coffee and providing cookies or light refreshments for roughly 30 people and cleaning up afterwards. Feel free to sign up with a friend!

VOLUNTEER TO BRING FLOWERS It has been an unintentional hiatus, but a number of our members have missed having flowers adorn our worship space on Sunday mornings. We welcome you to help bring back this tradition in a new way. Please use the sign up sheet provided in the Narthex to volunteer for Sundays you will bring a flower arrangement to place on our flower stand in the chancel. If you are giving in honor or in memory of a special person or event, please let Jessica know prior to that Sunday so we may acknowledge the occasion in our bulletin.

JESSICA'S POSTED OFFICE HOURS Jessica's Thursday office hours will continue be in flux over the next several weeks while she cares for the needs of Jason as he continues to recover from illness and regains his strength. She is working remotely and is available by email or text/phone call anytime and by appointment if you need to see her in the office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sherrri Bangert (9/5)

Dan Norboe (9/7)

Christine Winberg (9/9)

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