



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.*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 1, 2023

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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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 ✠

CHOIR PRELUDE *Kyrie; Gospel Acclamation; Holy, Holy, Holy; and O Lamb of God* from Holy Communion setting 11 in *All Creation Sings*

✠ 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 *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing* #531

**1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin.**

**The gates of heav'n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.

Come and revel in heaven's love and light.

Take your place at the table of the King.

The feast is ready to begin;

the feast is ready to begin.

**2. Tables are laden with good things;
oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.**

**He'll fill you up with love divine;
he'll turn your water into wine. Refrain**

**3. The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord. Refrain**

↑ 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.**

↑ KYRIE

ACS p. 11

**O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
Have mercy, O Lord. Have mercy, O Lord.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways

unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

↓ **Psalm 25:1-9**

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

↓ **SECOND READING** **Philippians 2:1-13**

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **ACS p. 14**

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, ris'n indeed.

↑ **GOSPEL** **Matthew 21:23-32**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the

prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *Now We Offer (Te ofrecemos)* WOV #761 vs. 1,5

Refrain

*Now we offer you, our Father,
with the bread and with the wine
all our joys and all our sorrows,
all our struggles and our time.*

1 *As the fields of wheat now growing
will become a holy sign,
so shall we reveal you, Jesus,
that in us you now may shine. Refrain*

5 *We sing glory to the Father
and to Christ who lives above,
and we praise the Holy Spirit
for the gift to us of love. Refrain*

Text: Misa popular nicaragüense, tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001
Tr. © 1989 Lutheran World Federation

↑APOSTLES' CREED ACS p. 17

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.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Today we pray especially for *Sister Pat, Sister Sharon, Jeremy Dude, Ruth Anne Ladue, Judy Lamb, Jason Hayes, Bernadette Hunsaker, Lacy Wentz, Jack Garcia, Carmen Hernandez, 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, Maria Bonino, 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.* Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. 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, Miracles of Faith Community Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Ken Gutleben, Theo Lamb, Guillermo Ruiz and Joanna

Ruiz as they celebrate their birthdays this week.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel.
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

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. 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

ACS p. 20

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

**Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

↑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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

ACS p. 25

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
Grant us your peace. Amen.**

↑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 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*
(Enviado soy de Diós)

#538

*The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. (Repeat)*

*The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. (Repeat)*

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

↑ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Te ofrecemos*

Nicaraguan folk tune Arr. Jeffrey Honoré, b. 1956
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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 37

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/2	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 10/3	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 10/4	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sat 10/7	4:00pm	Trinity's Oktoberfest Dinner

Today's altar flowers are provided by Ray and Mary Kay Wentz in honor of their family.

HAVE YOU RSVP'd YET? Trinity's Oktoberfest dinner will take place next Saturday, October 7th beginning at 4:00pm. *If you have not yet let us know you are coming*, please call/text/email Jessica and let her know how many people are in your party. Payment will be collected at the door. Cost is \$20 per person.

A NOTE FROM STARR Each year Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15-October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. During this time we will be singing some hymns written by our Hispanic siblings, I hope you enjoy the variety.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Pets are invited to join us in worship next Sunday, October 8th, where the focus will be on the Blessing of the Animals. Pet will receive a special blessing from Pastor Stephanie during the service.

GREETERS NEEDED!! We are looking for some volunteers to add to our Sunday morning Greeter pool. If you are willing to volunteer for this simple task, please let Jessica know.

HELPING MAUI Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. LWR will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires. *Please make your check out to Trinity Lutheran Church and place it in the offering plate.*

JESSICA'S POSTED OFFICE HOURS Jessica's Thursday office hours continue to 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!

Ken Gutleben (10/2)

Theo Lamb (10/3)

Guillermo Ruiz (10/3)

Joanna Ruiz (10/5)

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