



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.*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023

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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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 Prelude on *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*
Tune: *MADRID* Traditional Melody Arranged by Jack W. Jones

*as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
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✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the + triune God, who loves us into being, calls us to community, and inspires us to love.

Amen.

Confronted by the law and called to life in the gospel, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of love and community,
we confess that we have not loved as God has loved us. We look to ourselves to fulfill your law. We seek to satisfy our own desires. We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone. Teach us again your statutes and help us to love your will, that in and through us your beloved community is made known.

Beloved of God, love is the fulfillment of the law, and in + Jesus, God's love for you is made known. Through Jesus your sins are forgiven, and you are drawn into God's love and life. Live fully, knowing that God loves you. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *As We Gather at Your Table* #522 v.1, 3

**1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,**

↑ 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. Holy One, **you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins

weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

↓ Psalm 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your
teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise ¹ to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

↓ SECOND READING Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ HYMN *Beloved, God's Chosen* #648 1, 2

**1 *Beloved, God's chosen,
put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of
heart.***

***Above all, before all,
let love be your raiment
that binds into one every dissonant part.***

**2 *Within, call forth Wisdom,
to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts,
and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber,
beloved and holy,
let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.***

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

↓ INSTALLATION OF MINISTRY IN CONTEXT STUDENT

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.

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: *Sister Pat, Sister Sharon, Robin Cowell, Judy Lamb, 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.

Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of Blessings, we thank you for the opportunity to gather as your people. As our synod prepares to gather next week, we ask that your presence be felt in and among us. May we be filled with hope and joy, encouraged in our faith, and willing to share our lives with one another in love and compassion. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, The Islamic Center of Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Starr Brown, Meg Brogan and Jessica Fleischman as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

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

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

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 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

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. Holy Jesus, **in this meal you have fed
and nourished us to work in your beloved world.**
**Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened
by your Spirit to live your love for others.**
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

God who sets forth the law of love,
Jesus who fulfills the law for you,
and the Spirit through whom you are called to love,
**+ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands
and heart and voice at work in the world. Amen.**

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑HYMN God's Work, Our Hands ACS #1000

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

- 4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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↑BLESSING HANDS FOR MINISTRY AND DISMISSAL

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago
or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share of our abundance, God is known in
the world. **God is at work in us!**

In our service today, and in our daily lives,

let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the
world! **Thanks be to God.**

*As we depart, please present your hands to Pastor
Stephanie at the door to anoint them for service.
You are invited to join in Trinity's God's Work. Our
Hands. service project of assembling care kits for
Lutheran World Relief in the Fellowship Hall during
coffee hour.*

POSTLUDE

Erin Downey

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 42

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/11 *Dine and Connect hosted at Trinity*
 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 9/12 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 9/13 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Fri 9/15-Sun 9/17 *Synod Assembly takes place in Burlingame*

SAVE THE DATE!! Coming soon- Oktoberfest at Trinity! Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 7th for a fun, home cooked 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. There are flyers available in the church entryway for you to take and pass on to any of your friends or loved ones who might be interested in attending. Please help us spread the word! Please RSVP to Jessica by October 1st via email, phone call or text so we can get an accurate headcount.

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.***

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!

Starr Brown (9/10)
Meg Brogan (9/11)
Jessica Fleischman (9/14)

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