



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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023

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

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy.

When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the 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

Prelude in C

(from *Well-tempered Clavichord*), Book 1, BWV 846
J. S. Bach 1685-1750

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↓ WELCOME

↑ HYMN *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

#452 vs. 1,3,4

- Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.***
- There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.***
- Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.***

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. 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 Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ Psalm 103:1-13

- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- ⁹you will not always accuse us,

nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

↓SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

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

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

read by Demeter Lamb

↓CHOIR

Ten Thousand Reasons

Please join the choir in singing the refrain for each verse. Hymn #1097 in our new All Creation Sings (ACS) hymnal.

↑ 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.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially *Sister Pat, Sister Sharon, Jeremy Dude, Ruth Anne Ladue, 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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Blessings, we thank you for the opportunity to gather as your people. As our synod prepares to conclude their assembly this morning, we ask that your presence be felt in and among us. May we all be filled with hope and joy, encouraged in our faith, and willing to share our lives with one another in love and compassion. 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, Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Ruth Dow, Aiden Lamb and Cindy Mills as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. 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 the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. 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.**

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

↓ OFFERING

↑LORD'S PRAYER

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

✠ 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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

#858 vs. 1,4

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

***Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!***

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Tune: *Lobe den Herren, Erneueren Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665* Arr. Leila J. Viss ©2016, used with permission from Leila Viss.

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 39

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/18	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 9/19	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 9/20	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30pm	Christian Education Cmte. (meets on Zoom)

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. 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! ***To RSVP please call, text or email Jessica with the number of people in your party.***

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. PROJECT AT TRINITY Thank you to all of you who helped with this project by donating supplies or lending your hands to complete this meaningful project. Last Sunday we successfully (and rather quickly!) completed 50 full hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and thanks to the generous spirits of all of you, extra towels, soap and combs are heading off to the shower program that is hosted at Christ Episcopal Church here in Alameda.

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!

Ruth Dow (9/21)
Aiden Lamb (9/21)
Cindy Mills (9/23)

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