



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.*

Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost October 15, 2023

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

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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 *The Lord's My Shepherd*
Tune: Brother James' Air, James L. Macbeth Bain

✠ 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** *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*
 (Vamos todos al banquete) #523

Refrain

*Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.*

1 *I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family. Refrain*

2 *God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded*

so that no one will lack for food. Refrain

3 *May we build such a place among us
where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
and to share ev'rything we have. Refrain*

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*;
tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Text © 1988, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.

↑ 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. 12

*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. Lord of the feast, **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;

the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged
wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from
all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so
that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

↓ **Psalm 23** (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along
right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with
me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and
my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD forever.**

↓ **SECOND READING** **Philippians 4:1-9**

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for,
my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way,
my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the
same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my
loyal companion, help these women, for they have
struggled beside me in the work of the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest of my co-
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but
in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to
God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if
there is any excellence and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on
doing the things that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will
be with you.

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 22:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He
sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to
the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who
have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner,
my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered,
and everything is ready; come to the wedding
banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away,
one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the
rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed
them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready,
but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore
into the main streets, and invite everyone you find
to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out
into the streets and gathered all whom they found,
both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled
with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he
noticed a man there who was not wearing a
wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did
you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he
was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him

into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR

Cantad al Señor

Brazilian folk song, tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1923-2016

↑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.

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the

goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. Today we pray especially for *Kelly Rager, Sister Pat Nagle, Jeremy Dude, Ruth Anne Ladue, Judy Lamb, Bernadette Hunsaker, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Wes & Marla Anderson, Elena Sweet, Constance Farber, 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, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Joyce Blamire and Sophia Hofmann as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace, **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

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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

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

ACS p. 20-21

***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 *On Our Way Rejoicing* #537

**1 *On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?***

Refrain

***On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!***

**2 *Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,***

***on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. Refrain***

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Oh, Sing to the Lord (Cantad al Señor)*

Brazilian folk tune Arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 50

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/16 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 10/17 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 10/18 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)

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.

ALAMEDA ALL FAITHS COALITION RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE The Alameda All Faiths Coalition invites you and your friends to our next faith dialogue "Exploring Expressions of Faith: Diversity in the Christian Tradition." This will be an online offering, Saturday, October 21st at 2:00pm featuring the Reverend Laura Rose of First Congregational Church of Alameda, the Reverend Myrna Bernadel-Huey of Buena Vista United Methodist Church, the Reverend Stephanie Johnson of Trinity Lutheran Church of Alameda (ELCA), and Father Mario Rizzo of St. Joseph Basilica in Alameda. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/EEoF23>

IT'S ALMOST REFORMATION DAY

Martin Luther didn't set out to start a new Church; he set out to improve the Church as it had become. Through study of scripture and prayer, Luther imagined that Jesus began something very different from what the Church had become. His 95 Theses were topics he wanted to discuss academically with others who might want to help him bring the Church back into alignment with Jesus' teachings about forgiveness, community, the sacraments, and God's expectations for humanity. In preparation for part of our Reformation Sunday service, Pastor Stephanie asks you to be in prayer about ways you think Trinity or the Church at-large needs to explore our current beliefs or practices that might need updating (or a return to the basics) to better reflect the Gospel.

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.

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, October 28th.*

MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL HOSTS NEEDED Trinity has a long-time volunteer commitment to hosting the Midway Shelter Meal on the fourth Sunday of the month. Hosts provide a balanced meal for 20-30 guests, a mix of adults and children, who are part of the Midway Emergency/Transitional Shelter for domestic abuse survivors. We have many openings for 2023. There is an informational guideline sheet for completing this task available. If you are able and willing to provide a meal this year, or would like more information, please contact Jessica. ***We are looking for a host for the November 26th and December 24th dinners!***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joyce Blamire (10/21)

Sophia Hofmann (10/21)

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