



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.*

Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost October 22, 2023

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

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*
(in the style of Eric Satie)
Tune: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings 1784-1872 Arr. Starr Brown

*we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL

✠ 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 *God Is Here!* #526 vs. 1, 4

1 *God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

4 *Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;*

↑ 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. Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides
me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

↓ **Psalm 96:1-13** (read responsively)

¹**Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³**Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.**

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.

⁵**As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.**

⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷**Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹**Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.**

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it
cannot be moved will judge the peoples with
equity."

¹¹**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the
field be joyful and all that is therein.**

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge
the earth.

¹³**You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.**

↓ **SECOND READING** **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly
³remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and
sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,
⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not
in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit
and with full conviction; just as you know what kind
of persons we proved to be among you for your
sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the

Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the
word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that
you became an example to all the believers in
Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord
has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia
and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has
become known, so that we have no need to speak
about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report
about us what kind of welcome we had among you,
and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a
living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from
heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who
rescues us from the wrath that is coming.
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 22:15-22**

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

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap
[Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples
to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher,
we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of
God in accordance with truth, and show deference
to no one; for you do not regard people with
partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful
to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus,
aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting
me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin
used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.
²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and
whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's."
Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the
emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to
God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard
this, they were amazed; and they left him and went
away.

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

↓ **SERMON**

↓ **CHOIR** *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*
Gordon Young © 1956 Galaxy Music Corp.

↑ **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.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Today we pray especially for *Jerry Stich, 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. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. 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, Pacifica Senior Living in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. 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

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. 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 *Earth and All Stars* #731 vs. 1,2,5

**1 *Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain***

Refrain

***God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!***

**2 *Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain***

**5 *Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain***

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

↑ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Cortège

Gordon Young, 1919-1998 ©1962 Harold Flammer, Inc.

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 39

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/23	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 10/24	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 10/25	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
	7:00pm	Steeped in Stories (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 10/26	7:30pm	Council meeting (meets on Zoom)
Sun 10/29	9:30am	Reformation Sunday <i>Wear red to church!</i>

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!***

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