



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.

Reformation Sunday October 29, 2023

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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tune: Erhalt uns, Herr; J. klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543
Arr. Anton Wilhelm Leupold, 1868-1940
©1960 Chantry Music Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress

✠ 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 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* #504

- 1 *A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*
- 2 *No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,*

*whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.*

- 3 *Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

- 4 *God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 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.**

↑ 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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

↓ Psalm 46

(read responsively)

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be
moved, and though the mountains shake in the
depths of the sea;**
³though its waters rage and foam, and though the
mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city
of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what
desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the
world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the
spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be
exalted in the earth.”**
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

↓ SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

↓SERMON

THE RED DOOR

The congregation comes forward with their proposed reforms for the Church and our congregation to hang them on hooks on the red door at the front of the sanctuary as directed by the pastor.

↓CHOIR *By Grace We Have Been Saved*

Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971 Text © 2006 Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music (ASCAP), admin. Augsburg Fortress

↑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.

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and

peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer, especially *Jerry Stich, Kelly Rager, Sister Pat Nagle, Jeremy Dude, Judy Lamb, Bernadette Hunsaker, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Wes & Marla Anderson, 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.* Be their rest and comfort. 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, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Karol Luque and Margie Sherratt as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. 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

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has

brought us closer to you. 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 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

#645 vs. 1-2

1 *Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.*

2 *To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.*

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata Jubiloso

Lani Smith, 1934-2015

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY:

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/30 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 10/31 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sun 11/5 9:30am All Saints Sunday- Meg Brogan preaching

PLEASE BE SURE TO COME TO COFFEE HOUR TODAY! Karol Luque is hosting her annual Dia de Los Muertos Coffee Hour. Special thanks to Mike and Karol Luque for once again installing the ofrenda on the corner of Morton and Central.

PASTOR STEPHANIE is on vacation and taking family leave to attend to some family matters beginning this afternoon and continuing until Thanksgiving. In her absence, Pastor Ned will be covering Pastoral emergencies. He can be reached at (415) 652-0427. You may also contact Jessica or Anita with any other matters during Pastor Stephanie's absence.

NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE Trinity is looking forward to some guest preachers in the month of November. Here is the schedule:

Nov. 5- Meg Brogan
Nov. 12- Rev. Tita Valeriano
Nov. 19- Rev. Katy Grindberg
Nov. 26- our PLTS Student, Katie Evans will be preaching

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. There is an informational guideline sheet for completing this task available. *We are currently looking for helpers to take part of the meal for November 26th and December 24th.* Please see the sign-up sheet in the church entryway. If you are able and willing to provide a meal this year, or would like more information, please contact Jessica.

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