



# 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-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)  
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

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Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober.

Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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**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 ✠

## CHOIR

*Be Still and Know*

Steven Curtis Chapman

©1999 Sparrow Song/Peach Hill Songs (BMI)

## ✠ 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 the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. **Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

### ↑ HYMN *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

#726 vs. 1-2

**1** *Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.*

#### **Refrain**

*The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

**2** *Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL.

### ↑ 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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↓ FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
"The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm."

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

↓ **Psalm 90:1-12** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the  
land and the earth were born, from age to age  
you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like  
yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the  
night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your  
countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in  
strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but  
labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly  
and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

↓ **SECOND READING**      **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons,  
brothers and sisters, you do not need to have  
anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know  
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a  
thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace  
and security," then sudden destruction will come  
upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant  
woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you,  
beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise  
you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and  
children of the day; we are not of the night or of  
darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do,  
but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who  
sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get  
drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let  
us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and  
love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For  
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining  
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died  
for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we  
may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one  
another and build up each other, as indeed you are  
doing.

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 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup>  
chapter.      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man,  
going on a journey, summoned his slaves and  
entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave  
five talents, to another two, to another one, to each  
according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The  
one who had received the five talents went off at  
once and traded with them, and made five more  
talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two  
talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who  
had received the one talent went off and dug a hole  
in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a  
long time the master of those slaves came and  
settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had  
received the five talents came forward, bringing five  
more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to  
me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

<sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and  
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a

few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

## ↓SERMON

↓HYMN      *O Christ the Same*      #760 vs. 1, 3

- 1** *O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,  
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,  
unchanging still amid the passing years:  
O living Word, the source of all creation,  
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.*
- 3** *O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping  
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,  
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,*

*our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,  
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,  
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.*

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL

## ↑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.

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you *the family and loved ones of David Bonino, 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.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Saint Albert's Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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*

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*) we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**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

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table. **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. Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain  
us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the  
least of your beloved children, and give us glad and  
generous hearts as we meet you on the way.  
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are  
made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who  
strengthens us for service, give you reason to  
rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign,  
✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.  
Amen.

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↓ TEMPLE TALK

Kristin Moeller

↑ SENDING *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#632 vs. 1, 3, 4

1 *O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:*

3 *Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.*

4 *A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

↑ DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Tune: Nun Dunket, Johann Cruger,  
Arr. Leila Viss ©2017 Leila Viss, 88pianokeys.me

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## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 11/20      9:30am      Craft Group  
Tues 11/21      7:30am      Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Wed 11/22                      *No Women's Bible Study during the month of November*

**PASTOR STEPHANIE** is on vacation and taking family leave to attend to some family matters 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. 19- Rev. Katy Grindberg

Nov. 26- our PLTS Student, Katie Evans will be preaching

**TRINITY'S "ADOPT A SENIOR" HOLIDAY DRIVE** This year this Mission & Service Committee has a change to our annual adopt a family program. In years past we have worked to help make holidays bright for children in local transitional housing. This year, the places that we have worked with in the past are being cared for by other generous donors. Trinity will instead take part in Alameda's Meals on Wheels "Adopt a Senior" program, granting specific wishes to very low-income seniors right here in Alameda. Please see the giving tree in the church entryway and pick up a tag to purchase one specific item for a senior. There is an information sheet with instructions for you to take home. Please remember to fill in your name on the master sheet after you grab your tag. You may also contribute financially by placing your offering in the offering plates, or by donating \$25 gift cards to Trader Joe's, Safeway or Target to be given to each gift recipient. ***The deadline for bringing back wrapped gifts and monetary donations is Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.*** Please see Jessica with any questions.

**ASANTE NETWORK** has dissolved as a non-profit and we are no longer having African Bazaars, but we still have some of the hand crafted products. On Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kathy and Stan will display the items we have left in the Parish Hall. In appreciation of Trinity's support over the years, all items will be free of charge. Come pick-up some early Christmas gifts or just some items for yourself. Please see Kathy or Stan with any questions.

### **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