



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.*

The First Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024

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

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole 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 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

African American spiritual
Arr. Charles Callahan, 1951-2023

✠ 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, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Hear God's flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* #326

- 1 *Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.*
- 2 *Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.*

- 3 *Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Text © 1991 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 *Glory to God* p. 147

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being
of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us
pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

↓ Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**
⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and Faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

↓ SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 151

***Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.***

↑ GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*
American folk hymn, arr. Jack Schrader
© 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

↑APOSTLES' CREED p. 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.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts.

Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling, especially *Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, Barbara Denis, JoAnn Lee, Eva Fields, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, RuthAnne Ladue, Jerry Stich, Kelly Rager, Sister Pat Nagle, 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, Alameda Christian Science Church, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Lydia Hofmann, Nancy Heastings and Alex Luque as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God of grace, **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

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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 p. 152

*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 our 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 p. 153

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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, 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.

↓ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here find bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! **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 p. 154

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

↑ 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. Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* #325

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

Text: African American spiritual

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesus Is a Rock
African American spiritual Arr. Mark Hayes
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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 51

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 2/19	<i>Trinity Offices closed in observance of President's Day</i>	
	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 2/20	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
	10:00am	Music & Worship Committee (meets on Zoom)
Wed 2/21	2:00pm	Lenten Mid-Week Worship
Thur 2/22	6:00pm	Bible Study with Pastor Crystal (Immanuel) (meets on Zoom)
	7:30pm	Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)

EMPTY EGG CARTONS STILL NEEDED The Christian Education committee has prepared a family devotional activity for the Lenten season. They are in need of a dozen more empty egg cartons (the ones that hold a dozen eggs). If you have one you can bring, please put them on one of the pews in the narthex. Thank you!

LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP This year our mid-week Lenten worship will happen on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00pm. We hope this will make the service more accessible to those who prefer not to get out in the dark. We plan to worship in the style of Taizé. The Taizé service is a contemplative prayer service developed in the monastic community in Taizé, France. Characteristics of this service - repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines, liturgical readings, and silence – have been adapted by Christian communities outside of Taizé, France, to provide the bases for meditative services.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH IMMAUNEL ON ZOOM Pastor Crystal Larson Stewart of Immanuel Lutheran are partnering up during Lent to offer two mid-week Lenten practices of discipline. Along with mid-week worship services at Trinity, Pastor Crystal will lead a bible study on Thursdays at 6:00pm on Zoom. See the weekly Builder+ in your email (or on Facebook) for the link. Bible study materials may be found in the Narthex.

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, February 23rd.*

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