



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 Third Sunday of Lent March 3, 2024

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

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and 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 ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Prelude for Lent*

Starr Brown ©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.**

↓ **CHOIR** *What Wondrous, Marvelous Love*
Music and arrangement: Mary Ann Cooper (ASCAP)
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↑ 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, **through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

↓ Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their
message to the ends of the world, where God
has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his
chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its
course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the
heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the
soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives
wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the
heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous
altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than
much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than
honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous
sins; let them not get dominion over me; then
shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a
great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my
strength and my redeemer.**

↓ SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to
those who are perishing, but to us who are being
saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will
thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the
scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not
God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For
since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know
God through wisdom, God decided, through the
foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who
believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire
wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a
stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of
God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human
wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than
human strength.

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 John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went
up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people
selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money
changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of
cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both
the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the
coins of the money changers and overturned their
tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves,
“Take these things out of here! Stop making my
Father's house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples
remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your
house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to
him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”
¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in
three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said,
“This temple has been under construction for forty-

six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *O God, Who Gives Us Life* ACS #1086

1 *O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.*

2 *O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.*

3 *O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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↑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.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick, especially *the family of Harry Hill, the family of Bill Soderlund, Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, JoAnn Lee, Eva Fields, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, RuthAnne Ladue, Jerry Stich, 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 Seventh-Day Adventist Church, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Craig Blyeth, Chris Laine, Antonio Ruiz and Helen Pedersen as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. 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

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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.

↑HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

#803 vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1 *When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.*
- 3 *See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

- 4 *Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's promises in Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*

Tune: *Ebenezer* Arr. Lani Smith, 1934-2015
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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 46

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/4	9:30am	Craft Group
	10:30am	Christian Education Committee meeting
Tues 3/5	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/6	2:00pm	Lenten Mid-Week Worship
Thur 3/7	6:00pm	Bible Study with Pastor Crystal (Immanuel) (meets on Zoom)
	7:30pm	Mission & Service meeting (meets on Zoom)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, March 10th. Please remember to set your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday night so that you don't miss worship on Sunday!

DID YOU LOSE AN EARRING AT WORSHIP LAST SUNDAY? Please see Jessica if you lost an earring last Sunday, 2/25 or think you might have. One was found in the fellowship hall Monday morning.

MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL FOR MARCH 24th needs some volunteers! If you are able to provide a part of the meal on Sunday, March 24th or be the person who can deliver the completed meal to the shelter, please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested but have not participated recently, please see Jessica to get your questions answered.

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.

LETTER WRITING FOR ADCOVACY- TODAY: Let's help pass a Family-Friendly Farm Bill
The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors - it can play a huge role in reducing food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and abroad.
Congress is still working to renew farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid programs. Among the measures that should be included are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs, creating a more equitable SNAP program, and increasing food systems sustainability.

The Mission and Service Committee is scheduling letter writing for the next 3 Sundays during Coffee Hour: ~ March 3, March 10 and March 17. We will have sample letters and paper and pens for your letter writing. Your individual letter, when combined with the collective strength of our community, becomes a powerful catalyst for inspiring legislative action and driving meaningful change. Talk to Kathy Booker or Mary James if you have 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