



# 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent March 10, 2024

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

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The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live.

When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

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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 ✝

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Tune: *Near the Cross*, William Howard Doane, 1869

Arr. Dale Wood, 1934-2003 ©1994, The Sacred Music Press

## ✝ 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 *Lift High the Cross* #660 vs. 1, 3, 4

#### **Refrain**

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

- 1** *Come, Christians, follow where our captain  
trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.  
Refrain*

- 3** *O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.  
Refrain*

- 4** *So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956  
Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL All rights reserved.

### ↑ 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. O God, rich in mercy,  
**by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this  
fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness  
of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds  
may reflect your love, 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

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

↓ Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

↓ SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the

passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ SERMON

## ↓ CHOIR *Now Is the Time of Grace*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9  
Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

### *Refrain*

***Now is the time of grace,  
now is the day of salvation.  
Turn now, and seek God's face,  
now behold God's invitation.***

## ↑ 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.*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your

liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Today we pray especially for *the family of Harry Hill, 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, All Saints Lutheran Church in Novato, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Elizabeth Madaras, Dorothy Wingire, Stevie O'Connell and Matthew Pearce as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. 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*

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. 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 *O God of Mercy, God of Light*

#714 vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 O God of mercy, God of light,  
in love and mercy infinite,  
teach us, as ever in your sight,  
to live our lives in you.*
- 2 You sent your Son to die for all,  
that our lost world might hear your call;  
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!  
We rest our hope in you.*
- 4 For all are kindred, far and wide,  
since Jesus Christ for all has died;  
grant us the will, and grace provide,  
to love them all in you.*

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

**↑DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share God's promises in Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**POSTLUDE** *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

Tune: Consolation, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony* 1816

Arr. George Shearing, 1919-2011

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# THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

## IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/11	<i>Dine &amp; Connect hosted at Trinity</i>
	9:30am Craft Group
Tues 3/12	7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/13	2:00pm Lenten Mid-Week Worship
Thur 3/14	6:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Crystal (Immanuel) (meets on Zoom)
	7:30pm Mission & Service meeting (meets on Zoom)

**EASTER EGG HUNT SUPPLIES NEEDED** On Easter morning after worship, the Christian Education Committee will once again host an Easter Egg Hunt. Last year it was even more successful than we had hoped and so this year we are doubling the number of eggs!! We are looking for donations of plastic colored eggs (the standard chicken egg size) and "stuffers" to put in the eggs. If you would like to donate candy, small toys (that can fit in plastic eggs), or plastic eggs, please bring them to Trinity and place them in the basket in the church entryway by **Sunday, March 24th**. You are welcome to bring eggs already filled, or just the components. Thank you!

**MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL FOR MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 ADVOCACY- 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 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