



# 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024

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

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God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

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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**    *The Old Rugged Cross*  
George Bennard, 1873-1958

## ✠ 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**    *Create in Me a Clean Heart*                      #185

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.***

***Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.***

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.***

### ↑ 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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

↓ SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,  
"You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

<sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ SERMON

↓ CHOIR

*God So Loved the World*

Noël Goemanne

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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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Today we pray especially for *Betty Ann Haskins, 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, Bay Farm Community Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Mike Luque, Jackson Bohm and Karen Haines as they celebrate their birthdays this week. 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*

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting 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 *As the Winter Days Grow Longer*

ACS #924 vs. 1, 3

- 1** *As the winter days grow longer,  
drawing short the hours of night;  
as our eager expectation  
waits for Easter's dawning light—  
yearning people, here we gather,  
turning watchful eyes to you:  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
shine within our world anew!*
- 3** *As we journey through this season,  
pilgrims through a thirsty land,*

*quench us with your living presence;*

*guide us with your loving hand.*

*Wand'ring people, here we gather,  
called to rest along our way.*

*God who blesses earth with springtime,  
grant us sabbath joy this day!*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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↑DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

Tune: *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*, Johann Löhner, 1645-1705

Arr. Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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# THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 43

## IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/18	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 3/19	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/20	2:00pm	Lenten Mid-Week Worship
Thur 3/21	6:00pm	Bible Study with Pastor Crystal (Immanuel) (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 next **Sunday, March 24th**. You are welcome to bring eggs already filled, or just the components. Thank you! **Please note: Candy should not include nuts or peanut butter and should be individually wrapped (no jelly beans or other loose candy, please).**

**MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL FOR MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>** needs some volunteers! If you are interested but have not participated recently, please see Jessica to get your questions answered.

We need the following parts of the meal for next Sunday:

Entrée

Vegetable Side Dish

Dessert

**LETTER WRITING FOR ADVOCACY- Final push 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.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE** Please see the insert for a Holy Week schedule that can be shared with anyone you would like to invite to come to worship with us.

**EASTER FLOWERS INVITATION** Like we did last year, we would like to invite you to bring flowers to help enhance our worship space for Easter Sunday. We ask that you bring them already arranged in some sort of vase and drop them off Saturday at church before 2pm. Our volunteers from Visual Enrichment will place them around our sanctuary. Please mark the bottom of your vase with your name so we can be sure it is returned to you. You can reach out to Mary Kay or Pastor Stephanie with any questions. Please avoid lilies, as we have some allergies to this flower.

**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, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

### **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