



# 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.*

## Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

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

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This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of 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 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Tune: *Chereponi*, Ghanaian folk tune  
Arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

## ✝ GATHERING ✝

(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)

### ↑ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### ↑ HYMN *Now the Green Blade Rises* #379

**1** *Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

**2** *In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,*

*thinking that he would never wake again;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

**3** *Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

**4** *When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958  
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928.

### ↑ 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.**

### ↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Page 169-170

*This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia. (repeat)*

- 1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and  
honor, blessing and glory are his. (refrain)*
- 2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in  
the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor,  
glory and might be to God and the Lamb  
forever. Amen. (refrain)*
- 3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his  
reign. Alleluia. (refrain)*

### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

↓ Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who  
fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who  
seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live  
forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn

to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow  
before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over  
the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down  
in worship; all who go down to the dust, though  
they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom  
they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people  
yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has  
acted!"

↓ SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is  
from God; everyone who loves is born of God and  
knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know  
God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed  
among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the  
world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is  
love, not that we loved God but that he loved us  
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our  
sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also  
ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen  
God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his  
love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in  
us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we  
have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his  
Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those  
who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they  
abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the  
love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in  
God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been  
perfected among us in this: that we may have  
boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is,  
so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but  
perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with  
punishment, and whoever fears has not reached  
perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved  
us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their  
brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not  
love a brother or sister whom they have seen,  
cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The  
commandment we have from him is this: those who  
love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

↑GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Page 171  
*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*  
*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

↑GOSPEL John 15:1-8  
The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15<sup>th</sup>  
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *Take Me to the Water*  
Text: African American spiritual

↑ AN AUSTRALIAN CREED

Let us affirm our faith.

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ-God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn- who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free of the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and**

**will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.**

**For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

*An Affirmation of Faith from our siblings in Australia*

**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.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially *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, 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, Jackson Bohm, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Michael Rasmussen, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce,*

*Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear 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*

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

#### ↑SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

#### ↓OFFERING

#### ↑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.**

#### ✠ SENDING ✠

#### ↑BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

#### ↑HYMN *We Know That Christ Is Raised* #449

**1** *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!*

**2** *We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life, as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!*

**3** *The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!*

**4** *A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!*

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Text © John B. Geyer

#### ↑DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

#### POSTLUDE *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

Tune: Engelberg, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Arr. Anne Krentz Organ © 2001 Augsburg Fortress

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## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 36

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 4/29 9:30am Craft Group  
Tues 4/30 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Wed 5/1 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Thurs 5/2 12:30pm Ukuleles with Ozzy's Music Academy (fellowship hall)

**WELCOME JILL DISBRO** The (almost) Rev. Jill Disbro is leading us in worship this morning while Pastor Stephanie is away. Please share a warm welcome with her.

Jill is the Director of Admission at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and soon to begin a part-time call as Associate Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante, CA. She is originally from Ohio, but has called California home for the last 6 years. She lives in Richmond with her fiancé and 2 cats and loves all the outdoor adventures the Bay Area has to offer.

**LUTHERAN LOBBY DAY** Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30am-4pm in Sacramento. Registration is now open. For more information on Lobby Day, or to register to attend, please visit [lutheranpublicpolicyca.org](http://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org) or talk with Mary James to learn more about this vital event.

**AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OZZY'S MUSIC ACADEMY:** Hello Trinity Community! We are excited to announce the return of a Ukulele group! Ozzy's Music Academy will be hosting a weekly ukulele jam group/workshop every week on Thursdays through June from 12:30-2pm. Feel free to send Ozzy an email at [info@ozzysmusicacademy.com](mailto:info@ozzysmusicacademy.com) to say hello before joining next week. Bring a ukulele, guitar, or instrument of choice to begin or revisit your music practice and share in community music-making.

**UPDATE ON LENTEN APPEAL FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT** Thank you for your generous support of Eritrean refugees! In total we collected \$2,525 to help the resettlement efforts of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. They offer their sincere gratitude. With our help, Bethlehem is now able to sponsor two refugees through Welcome Corps.



*Trinity Lutheran*  
**UKULELE  
GROUP**

**THURSDAYS 12:30-2PM**

**APRIL 25  
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23  
JUNE 13, 20, 27**

**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED  
• OTHER INSTRUMENTS WELCOME**

**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