



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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024

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

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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 Loves Me*

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868
Arr. Charles Callahan, 1951-2023
©2012 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)

✠ 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 *Here, O Lord, Your Servants* #530 vs. 1, 4

- Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:***

Jesus savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

- Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray, send us from above
truth and courage, faith and pow'r, needed in our strife:
Jesus, master, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.***

Text: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1900-1995: tr. Everett M. Stowe
Music: Japanese Gagaku mode; Isao Koizumi, 1907-1992
Text ©1958 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company. Music: ©1958 Isao Koizumi

↑ 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

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

- 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)***
- 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)***
- For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. (refrain)***

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, **you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded

that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

↓Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

↓SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *I Am the Bread of Life* #485

**1 "I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father
beckons."**

Refrain

**"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."**

**2 "The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever."
Refrain**

3 **"Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." Refrain**

4 **"I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever." Refrain**

5 **Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. Refrain**

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
Text © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL

↑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.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill
your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give
understanding hearts to those who strengthen our
commitments with our ecumenical and
interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our
prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed.
Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of
living thing might flourish. Protect endangered
species and help us to care for all your creatures.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant
wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may
seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen
international partnerships and cooperation. God of
grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who
suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety,
depression, and mental illness. Help us to be
conduits of your love in our care for one another.
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, 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 Lutheran Church in
El Cerrito, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in
Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the
lives of Chase Beardsley and Joanne Robinson as
they celebrate their birthdays this week. God of
grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless
the ministries of this congregation, that we may
embody your love for the world. Inspire those who

plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. 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

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet 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.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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↑ PREFACE

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,

heaven 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.

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↑ 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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

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

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way 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. Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. 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.**

↓ CHOIR

Tree Song

Ken Medema, arr. Robert Sterling/Julie Haydon

© 1976 Shawnee Press, Inc.

Please join the choir for the final refrain:

***We've got roots growing down to the water,
we've got leaves growing up to the sunshine,
and the fruit that we bear is a sign of the life in us.
We are shade from the hot summer sundown,
we are nest for the birds in the heaven.
We're becoming what the Maker of Trees has
blessed us to be:
A strong young tree!***

↑ DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *God Created Heaven and Earth*

Tune: Toa-Sia, from Taiwanese Seng-si

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 39

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 5/6	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 5/7	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 5/8	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 5/9	12:30pm	Ukuleles with Ozzy's Music Academy (fellowship hall)

TRINITY'S SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place on Sunday, May 19th immediately following the worship service. Current agenda items are to elect new Council Members and have a Strategic Exploration Committee report. Please plan to attend!

LUTHERAN LOBBY DAY Wednesday May 15th, 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 or talk with Mary James to learn more about this vital event.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSICIAN, STARR: May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, when we recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander Americans to our history and culture. Each Sunday this month we will have at least one piece of music from the AAPI community; check out the fine print under each hymn to see its origin.

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 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. Please feel free to spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested!

UPDATE ON LENTEN APPEAL FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT Thank you for your generous support of Eritrean refugees! In total we collected \$2,625 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.

STRATEGIC SPIRITUAL JOURNEY On Sunday, June 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., following the church service we plan to have our first Strategic Spiritual Journey session. A small lunch will be provided by the SET. During this meeting, we will divide into groups of 2-3, discuss a prayer or a scripture passage and share what it has to say to us about God's will for our congregation. There will be leaders there to help in this process, but your voice is critically important. Please consider whether you would be willing to participate in this journey with the Strategic Exploration Team. There will be a sign-up at the Congregational Meeting on May 19th so the SET can form the groups.



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