



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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 16, 2024

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

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

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

Faith of Our Fathers

Tune: St. Catherine, Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888
Arr. Anne Marie David © 2002 Augsburg Fortress

✠ 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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Lord, Your Hands Have Formed* #554

- 1 Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev'ry part is shaped by you—
water tumbling over rocks,
air, and sunlight: each day's signs
that you make all things new.**
- 2 Yours the soil that holds the seed,
you give warmth and moisture, too.
Sprouting blossoms, crops and buds,
trees and plants: the season's signs
that you make all things new.**

- 3 Like a mat you roll out land,
space to build for us and you
earthly homes and, better still,
homes for Christ: the truest sign
that you make all things new.**

Text: Ramon and Sario Oliano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice
Text © James Minchin, admin. Asian Institute for Liturgy & Music;
admin. Augsburg Fortress

↑ 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

Page 193

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 their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.*

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 196-197

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***1. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-
or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. (refrain)***

***2. Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in
the hymn of all cre-a-tion; Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-
ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er.
A-men.***

***This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign.***

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, **you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear
fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

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

↓Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your
hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

↓SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know
that while we are at home in the body we are away
from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.

⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather
be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it
our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear
before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each
may receive recompense for what has been done in
the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try
to persuade others; but we ourselves are well
known to God, and I hope that we are also well
known to your consciences. ¹²We are not
commending ourselves to you again, but giving you
an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may
be able to answer those who boast in outward
appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are
beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right
mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us
on, because we are convinced that one has died for
all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so
that those who live might live no longer for
themselves, but for him who died and was raised for
them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from
a human point of view; even though we once knew
Christ from a human point of view, we know him no
longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is
a new creation: everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

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

↑GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 198

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

↑GOSPEL**Mark 4:26-34**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**↓SERMON****↓HYMN*****Morning Has Broken*****#556**

- 1 *Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***
- 2 *Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.***
- 3 *Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!***

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

↑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.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living

with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Today we pray especially for *Chuck Bangert, Ann Kenyon, 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, 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.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, First Presbyterian Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Chuck Bangert, Torii Rodriguez, Saemi Ladue and Anna Streissguth as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **receive 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 gratitude, we remember the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 199

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

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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

Page 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

↓ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. 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

Page 201

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. Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

↑HYMN *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* #547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1964 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Concertato*

Henry Purcell, 1659-169 Arr. Rick Parks
© 1995 Lorenz Publishing Company

All music and liturgy used with permission under Augsburg
Fortress Sundays and Seasons Subscription SB132990 and One
License A-706480. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 31

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 6/17 9:30am Craft Group
Tues *Bible Study on break until August*
Wed *Women's Bible Study on Summer break*
Thurs 6/20 12:30pm Ukuleles with Ozzy's Music Academy (fellowship hall)
Sun 6/23 SET's Strategic Spiritual Journey meeting (with light lunch) right after worship

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 4 for a time of conversation, directed by the Strategic Exploration Team (SET). If you missed the opportunity to sign-up to participate on this date, you are still very welcome to attend- and we really need your voice and your thoughts. Please contact Jessica if you would like to attend so that we can be sure to have enough food.

SAVE THE DATE Pastor Ned is retiring from the East Bay Lutheran Parish upon its closure at the end of this month. Trinity will host a retirement luncheon in his honor on Sunday, June 30th after worship. Pastor Ned will be with us for Worship that morning. Please plan to attend this event as we celebrate all that Pastor Ned has done for the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes over the last 10 years. You are invited to bring a card expressing your well wishes upon his retirement from EBLP. The Council will present him with a monetary gift on behalf of the congregation.

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