



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.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 25, 2024

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

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God.
We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

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

Sarabanda

Domenico Zipoli, 1688-1726

✠ 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 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

#853 vs. 1, 4, 5

1 *When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

4 *Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

5 *Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!*

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

↑ 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

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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. Holy God, **your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓FIRST READING **Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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

↓Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

↓SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

↑GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

↑GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord..

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He

said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↑HYMN *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

#596 vs. 1, 2, 4

1 *My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2 *When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain*

4 *When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

↑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.

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts, especially *Nevi Zabilski, Saemi Ladue, Brian*

Schoenrock, Ginny Ostergren, Chuck Bangert, Ann Kenyon, Betty Ann Haskins, Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, JoAnn Lee, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, Jerry Stich, Sister Pat Nagle, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Marla Anderson, Constance Farber, Alan Petersen, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, 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, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Megan Irish and Peter Dow as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. 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

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.
Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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

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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. 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 *May the God of Hope Go With Us* ACS #984 (sing twice)

*May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt.

↑DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Festival Postlude*

From *Sonate d'intavolatura per organo e cimbalo*, 1716
Domenico Zipoli, 1688-1726

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 53

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 8/26 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 8/27 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 8/28 *Women's Bible Study on Summer break*
7:00pm SET Meeting
Thurs 8/29 12:30pm Ukuleles with Ozzy

A MESSAGE FROM STARR Thank you to all those who submitted titles of your favorite hymns! I have compiled a list joining these titles with the ones you submitted in 2019, resulting in a total of 77 different hymns. "How Great Thou Art" received the most votes, with 6. Tied for second place with 4 votes each were "Abide With Me" and "This Little Light of Mine." I plan to use at least one hymn from this list each Sunday, so if you want to hear your favorite be sure to attend worship as often as you can so you don't miss your hymn! And it is never too late to suggest a hymn.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SERVICE PROJECT Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 8th for a light lunch hosted by the Mission and Service Committee followed by putting together our hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief.



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. PROJECT AT TRINITY

We have 1 Sunday left to reach our lofty goal!!

We need 100 of each of these items:

*light weight bath-size towel- brand new- in dark colors (NO WHITE), sized from 20-40" x 52-72"
current count: 62 of 100

*adult size toothbrush *Completed!*

*sturdy comb- *Completed!*

*metal nail clippers *Completed!*

and 200 bath size bars of soap-in packaging (2 will go in each kit) *Completed!*

All items must be brand new

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