



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.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 15, 2024

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

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

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

Prelude in C

J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

✠ 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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

↑ CHOIR

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Gordon Young, 1919-1998

©1956 Galaxy Music Corporation

↑ 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

ACS p. 12

***O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
Have mercy, O Lord. Have mercy, O Lord.***

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, **through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he awakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of
the grave came upon me; I came to grief and
sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;

our God is full of compassion.

**⁶The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**⁸For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

↓SECOND READING

James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!

⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

↑GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS p. 14

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, ris'n indeed.

↑GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↑HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #858

**1 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!***

**2 *Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
sustaining.***

Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

**3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.**

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

*Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!*

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

ACS p. 17

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.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve, especially *Jeremiah Jacob Schultz, Nevi Zabilski, Saemi Ladue, 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*. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. 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, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Berkeley, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Ruth Dow and Aiden Lamb as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. 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

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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 ACS p. 20

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 God 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 ACS p. 20-21

*Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our
God.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, 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

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God. **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

ACS p. 25

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

***O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
Grant us your peace. Amen.***

↑ 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. Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

↑HYMN *Christ, Be Our Light* #715
v.1 all, v.2 high voices, v. 3 choir,
v. 4 low voices, v. 5 all. Refrain: all voices

1 *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Refrain

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2 *Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain*

3 *Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain*

4 *Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain*

5 *Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
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↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Tune: Lobe den Herren, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665
Arr. Leila J. Viss ©2016 Leila Viss

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 46

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/16 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 9/17 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 9/18 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
7:00pm SET Meeting
Thurs 9/19 12:30pm Ukuleles with Ozzy

OUR POP-UP CHOIR IS BACK! We meet each Sunday morning at 8:45 to rehearse a simple hymn or anthem to sing in the service. Everyone is welcome to join us; reading music is not required, just a desire to sing!"

SEPTEMBER'S MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL: We need volunteers for all aspects of the Midway Meal for **September 22nd**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall to pick a portion of the meal you can help with. Thank you!

Have you read our online newsletter (Builder) this week? Here's a look at some information that you will find there that isn't in the bulletin announcements:

- Information regarding a Border Servant Corps Trip to the US/Mexico Border June 1-7, 2025
- An Organ Recital "Aspects of Fire" at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento September 22nd.
- A Zoom Celebration of World Food Day and the 50th Anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger Campaign - October 15th on Zoom
- A Conversation about proposed California Propositions with the Executive Director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Regina Banks - October 10th on Zoom
- Minutes from our council meeting

If you aren't receiving the email newsletter in your email inbox and would like to be, please see Jessica to get that taken care of. Visitors who would like to receive our weekly email may sign-up by going to our website trinityalameda.org, clicking the tab "About Trinity" and then clicking on "Newsletter" to submit your email address to begin receiving it. You may unsubscribe at any time.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Please see the back page of this bulletin to see if you have an assigned role for next week's Worship Service.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED! The Coffee Hour sign-up was misplaced during summer camp. Please see the replacement in the hall if you already had a date chosen or see if there is a date you can host coffee hour this fall.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Mark Schoenrock
Reader: Demeter Lamb
Greeters: Kathy & Stan Booker
Children's Attendant: Mary James
Coffee Hour: Burnafords
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 9/22

Assisting Minister: Mary James
Reader: Ray Wentz
Greeters: Chuck & Sherri Bangert
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons
Coffee Hour: Rachel Hanson & Mary James
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays this Week:

Ruth Dow (9/21)
Aiden Lamb (9/21)

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