



## 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.*

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024

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

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James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply?

Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality.

Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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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

## ✠ 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.**

## ↑ HYMN *To Be Your Presence* #546 vs. 1-4

- To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near,  
alleluia!***
- To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,  
alleluia!***
- To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,  
alleluia!***

- We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,  
alleluia!***

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

## ↑ 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 One, **you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↓FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

### ↓Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**  
<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.  
<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**  
<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## ↓SECOND READING

James 2:1-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord..

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## ↓SERMON

↑HYMN *God, Bless the Hands* ACS #1022 v.1-3

- 1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods below and storms above; they search and rescue, comfort, calm, give shelter, offer healing balm. Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.*
- 2 Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn, left broken, emptied by the storm. Give hope to those in deepest grief;*

*empower us to bring relief.*

*To you, O God, we raise our hands.*

*Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.*

- 3 O God, our strength and refuge sure, our hope while storms of life endure: teach us to live in harmony with earth and river, sky and sea, preserving waters, air, and lands as holy work for human hands.*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 2019 GIA Publications, Inc.,

## ↑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.

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: *Jeremiah Jacob Schultz, 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.* Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Christine Winberg, Starr Brown, Meg Brogan and Jessica Fleischman as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

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*

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus. **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

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

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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. Holy Jesus, **in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

## ↑ BLESSING

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, ✠ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

## ↑ HYMN *God's Work, Our Hands* ACS #1000

- 1 **God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2 **God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3 **God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 4 **God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## ↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world! **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/9 *Dine & Connect hosted at Trinity*  
9:30am Craft Group  
Tues 9/10 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Wed 9/11 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Thurs 9/12 12:30pm Ukuleles with Ozzy

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SERVICE PROJECT** Please join us after worship today for coffee hour hosted by the Mission and Service Committee and putting together our 100 hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY We're Back!** The Women's Bible Study meets Wednesdays from 10:00am - 11:00am on Zoom. We hope you will plan to join us in September as we embark on a study of 1, 2, and 3 John. To join the zoom meeting, click on the link found in your weekly email Trinity Builder either in the schedule or in the announcement.

**SEPTEMBER'S MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL:** We need volunteers for all aspects of the Midway Meal for September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall to pick a portion of the meal you can help with. Thank you!

**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.

**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:

- God's Love Made Real - a conversation with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Brenda Bos Tuesday, September 10th on Zoom
- 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](http://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: Candace Gutleben  
Reader: Ken Gutleben  
Greeters: Marvera Kline  
Children's Attendant: Karol Lque  
Coffee Hour: Mission & Service Committee  
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

**Next Sunday, 9/15**

Assisting Minister: Mary Kay Wentz  
Reader: Demeter Lamb  
Greeters: Kathy & Stan Booker  
Children's Attendant: Mary James  
Coffee Hour: *open*  
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

**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