



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.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 20, 2024

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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 *O Word of God Incarnate*

Tune: Munich, *Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch*, 1693
Arr. Charles Callahan, 1951-2023
©2006, Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)

✠ 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 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* #517

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.***
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.***
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.***

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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

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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, **we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the**

depths of the sea;

³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

↓SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

John 8:31-36

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *He Watching Over Israel, from Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Arr. Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933 ©1992 Hope Publishing Co.

↑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.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond especially *Janette McChesney, Mary Waller, Gary Ward, Sally Petersen, 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, 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.* Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. 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, St. Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Karol Luque as she celebrates her birthday this week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach

efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. 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

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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.

↓ THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

L: Pastor Stephanie, on January 7, 2018 we of Trinity Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you

have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

L: Let us pray for the saving presence of our living God:

In your world, **be present God.**

In this congregation, **be present God.**

In this community, **be present God.**

In this synod, and the whole church, **be present God.**

In the homes and hearts of all your people, **be present God.**

L: Let us pray for the mercy of God:

For work begun but not completed, **God have mercy.**

For expectations not met, **God have mercy.**

For wounds not healed, **God have mercy.**

For gifts not shared, **God have mercy.**

For promises not kept, **God have mercy.**

L: Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth, **thanks be to God.**

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept, **thanks be to God.**

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God which has sustained us, **thanks be to God.**

Dissolution

L: People of God, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Stephanie from service as our pastor? **We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.**

The leader addresses the pastor.

L: Pastor Stephanie, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church? *I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.*

Thanksgiving and Sending

L: Let us pray....Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip

your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Stephanie among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:
bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:
keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: **prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.**

Help Pastor Stephanie and all of us, to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

L: As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

“Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call” from Occasional Services for the Assembly (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 111-113. Prayers are from Book of Occasional Services: A Liturgical Resource Supplementing the Book of Common Worship, 1993 (Louisville: Geneva Press, 1999), 245-6.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

↑ **BLESSING**

↑ **HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* * #504

1 *A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*

2 *No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.*

***You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.***

3 *Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

4 *God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

↑ **DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Grand Triumphal Chorus*

Alexander Guilmant, 1837-1911
Arr. James Mansfield, 1927-2018
©1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 42

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/21 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 10/22 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 10/24 1:00pm Ukuleles with Ozzy
7:30pm Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)
Sun 11/3 9:30am All Saints Sunday Worship
World Hunger 50th Anniversary Celebration hosted by Mission & Service

COMING UP:

2nd Annual Oktoberfest Fellowship Dinner. Saturday, November 2nd. 4:00pm. *Please make your reservations with Jessica by Thursday, October 31st* Menu: brats, red cabbage, German potato salad, Gunther's homemade pretzels, German apple cake. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Enjoy some German muzik led by Gunther and Geoff. Cost is \$25 per person. Please email or call the office with the number of people in your group that will attend. Please contact Jessica with any questions. Invite your friends!

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY, 11/3 It's time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our ELCA Hunger Program. In that time the program has been able to raise \$650 million to help change the world by providing food and sustainable opportunities to our brothers and sisters around the world as well as here in the United States. So on November 3, after church, we will have time to celebrate by adding paper leaves to a paper tree, symbolizing the life that we have been able to share as well as the future life and hope that we'll be able to continue.

We will have all kinds of leaves to add to this tree, and we're hoping that everyone can help with that.

If there are stories of hope and parts of our hunger program that you found moving, we'll have a leaf for you to record that. We will also have stories that you can choose from to highlight on our tree.

As Trinity often sees itself as a flourishing tree, it is fun to share this image with our hunger program as well. For more information feel free to ask Mary James.

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: (please be sure to click the link that says "view entire message")

- An Important Message from Pastor Stephanie
- Hosting the Alameda Warming Shelter
- Ways the ELCA can help us faithfully engage in civic life during an election year
- How to help victims of Hurricane Helené
- Upcoming Events at Trinity and around the Synod
- And much more!

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.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Candace Gutleben
Reader: Ken Gutleben
Greeters: John Kofranek & Marilyn Ohm-Smith
Children's Attendant: N/A
Coffee Hour: Karol Luque
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 11/3

Assisting Minister: Anita Burnaford
Reader: Demeter Lamb
Greeters: Ken & Candace Gutleben
Children's Attendant: Karol Luque
Coffee Hour: Mission & Service Committee
Altar Guild: Marvera Kline

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

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