



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.

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

www.trinityalameda.org

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Tune: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Arr. Egil Hovland, 1924-2013

© 1963 Harald Lyche & Co.

✠ GATHERING ✠

(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)

↓ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this beacon of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles marking our Advent journey, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light two candles.

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✠ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Prepare the Royal Highway* #264 vs.1, 4

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 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.**

↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God* p. 185 (Refrain)

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. (Refrain)**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. (Refrain)**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Amen. Amen.**

(Final refrain)

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 **Malachi 3:1-4**

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

↓ Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God’s people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

↓ SECOND READING **Philippians 1:3-11**

³ I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵ for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God’s grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **p. 188**

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

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

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

↑ GOSPEL **Luke 3:1-6**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ CHOIR *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*

Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English;
Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez

Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.

↑ 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.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Today we pray especially for *Fern Stern, Larry Haskins, Anita Burnaford, Anna Streissguth, Starr Brown, 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, 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.* Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, University Lutheran Church in Berkeley, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the life of Martin Kelly as he celebrates his birthday this week. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **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

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 190

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 p. 190

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
full of your glory.*

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

↓ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.
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 p. 191

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

↑ 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. Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠
bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *People, Look East* #248 vs. 1, 3, 4

1 *People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

3 *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.*

***People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.***

**4 *Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.***

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come*

Tune: *Consolation*, A. Davison, Kentucky Harmonies, 1816

Arr. David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

© 1973 Augsburg Publishing House

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

* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 12/9 *Dine & Connect hosted at Trinity*
9:30am Craft Group
Tues 12/10 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sun 12/15 9:30am Sunday Worship- Guest Pastor Dee Emmert

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS.

COMING UP-COOKIES AND CAROLS! Please join us for an early afternoon of fun led by Gunther and Geoff on Saturday, December 21st at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll sing Christmas Carols and share cookies. This event is intended for the whole family- kids and adults alike. Please bring your favorite cookies to share/exchange. Please take a flyer or two from the entryway and share with anyone you think might be interested- the more the merrier!

COPIES OF "ADVENT STUDY 2024" are available in the church entryway. Provided to us by the ELCA World Hunger program, it is a walk through the Sundays in Advent. Please take one for yourself and one for anyone you think would enjoy this booklet- we have plenty to share!

REMINDER: STEWARDSHIP PACKETS ARE DUE. The Stewardship and Finance Committees thank you for returning your pledge cards and Time and Talent forms so that they can complete planning for 2025.

THE CHILDREN'S THEATER GROUP, TOMORROW YOUTH REPERTORY (TYR) is hosting the fall/winter production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast here at Trinity. The shows are free to the public and TYR would love to see some Trinity folks in attendance! We are pleased to welcome them back to Trinity- here are the dates and times of performances (no reservation required):

Sundays: 12/8- 3:00pm & 6:30pm; 12/15- 3:00pm

Fridays at 7:00pm: 12/13

Saturdays, 3 shows a day at 12:00pm, 3:00pm and 7:00pm: 12/14

ALAMEDA WARMING SHELTER OPPORTUNITY: Trinity is signed up for 3 days of providing to-go breakfast bags for the Warming Shelter guests while the shelter is being hosted at Trinity, and one dinner service. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall if you would like to participate in providing a part of the items for the breakfast bags, or if you would like to participate in the meal on Saturday, January 4th. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet. Jessica will follow up with each of the participants with more details.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Ray Wentz
Reader: Mark Schoenrock
Greeters: Marvera Kline
Children's Attendant: Karol Luque
Coffee Hour: Jessica Fleischman & Karol Luque
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 12/15

Guest Pastor: Dee Emmert
Assisting Minister: Mary James
Reader: Anita Burnaford
Greeters: Ken & Candace Gutleben
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons
Coffee Hour: Kathy & Stan Booker
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

For Pastoral care during this time before we have an Interim Pastor, Pastor Ned O'Donnell had kindly agreed to provide this to us. He can be reached at (415) 652-0427 or via email at pastorned@live.com.