



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 in Lent March 16, 2025

Rev. Jill Ross, Interim Pastor- revjillross@gmail.com
www.trinityalameda.org

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

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. We invite you to join us in our commitment to being an anti-racist, LGBTQIA+ embracing, community- loving congregation.

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *The God of Abraham Praise* #831 vs. 1,2, 8

**1 The God of Abr'ham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love--
"I Am the One I Am"--
by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.**

**2 The God of Abr'ham praise!
At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at your right hand.**

*I all on earth forsake--
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r--
and you my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.*

**8 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
to you be glory, might divine,
and endless praise!**

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.

↑ 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 *Glory to God* p. 147

*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 here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

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

↓ Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days**

of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

↓ SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

*Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

↑ GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13th
chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ HYMN #613 *Thy Holy Wings vs. 1, 3*

**1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.**

**3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. Composite Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.
www.selahpub.com

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.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need especially *Mary Glenn, Klaus Hofmann, Paul M., Jason Hayes, Savanna and her family-Antoinette, Marlaya, and Joshua, Shari, Helen & Lacey, Sonya, Michelle Koka,*

Janine Carr, Fern Stern, Anna Streissguth, Starr Brown, Mary Waller, Jeremiah Jacob Schultz, Nevi Zabitski, Ann Kenyon, Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, 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. God, 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, Christ Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Mike Luque, Jackson Bohm, and Karen Haines as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, 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

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 152

*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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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. 153

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. **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. 154

*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.*

↑ 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 Host, **you have shared your
feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set
tables of love and grace in our communities, that
your liberating love might nourish the world into
freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

↑ HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* #768 vs. 1, 3

Refrain

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.*

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.*

Help me through the darkness thy face to see.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

*3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without...thy light to see.*

Lord, just always let me thy servant be.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 41

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/17	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 3/18	7:30am	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/12	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
	7:00pm	SET Meeting
Sun 3/23		<i>No Pop-up Choir Rehearsal</i>
	9:30am	Sunday Worship

TRINITY IS PLEASED TO WELCOME Gail Kiyomura this morning while Starr is taking some medical leave.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available in the church entryway. Please share one with a friend!

2025 LENT This year, instead of Wednesday evening Lenten worship, Pastor Jill is trying several Lenten activities at different times and days of the week. We are excited to share some different activities and timing than we have had in the past. There is a list in the church entryway with the activities with dates and times. Please take one for yourself, and an extra to invite someone to join us. Please talk to Pastor Jill or Jessica with questions.

ORIGAMI CRANE MAKING TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

Next Sunday, March 23rd during coffee hour

Ozzy will lead us in a lesson on origami cranes. We'll make black cranes and white cranes and Pastor Jill will use them during Holy Week in the sanctuary. Please come join us!

BEGINNING THIS MORNING! BOOK STUDY Pastor Jill and Demeter will co-lead a book study on "Call to Allyship", by Angela T. !Khabeab, Editor. SET and Council were recommended this book by the Synod as part of our commitment to anti-racism work during this Interim time. The study will take place on Sundays after worship beginning today. *Even if you didn't get a request in to Jessica for a copy of the book, if you would like to join the discussion, you are most welcome! Jessica will order any extra books this week and you will have a copy by next Sunday.*

Here is a brief description of the book:

"How can churches do the work of becoming allies for the leaders they call? In belonging to a predominantly white denomination, ELCA members are called to listen and learn from its leaders of color to recognize the assumptions, biases, and harmful actions that result when congregations don't commit to become allies. Authors offer wisdom, storytelling, and concrete suggestions for churches preparing to call a leader of color. Call to Allyship is a must-read for call committees, church councils, social justice teams, and anyone prepared to do the work of understanding, welcoming, and celebrating these leaders."

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Karol Luque
Reader: Stan Booker
Greeters: Marilyn Ohm-Smith & John Kofranek
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons
Coffee Hour: Anita & Geoff Burnaford
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 3/23

Assisting Minister: Candace Gutleben
Reader: Ken Gutleben
Greeters: Kathy & Stan Booker
Children's Attendant: Mary James
Coffee Hour: Karol Luque
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9



Mike Luque (3/19)
Jackson Bohm (3/21)
Karen Haines (3/21)