



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.

Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

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

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to 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. 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 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* #445

- 1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.*
- 2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing,
living bread.*

God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

- 3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us ;
God, transform!*

↑ 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. Eternal God, **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread and your earnings for that which does
not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to
you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One
of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy
on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↓ Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy
place, that I might behold your power and your
glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the
shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

↓ SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and
sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud,
and all passed through the sea, ² and all were
baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank
the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the
spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was
Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with
most of them, and they were struck down in the
wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us,
so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not
become idolaters as some of them did, as it is
written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and
they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not engage in
sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-
three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not
put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and
were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain,
as some of them did, and were destroyed by the
destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to
serve as an example, and they were written down to
instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have
come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out
that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you
that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and
he will not let you be tested beyond your strength,
but with the testing he will also provide the way out
so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 151

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

↑ GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who
told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate
had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked
them, "Do you think that because these Galileans

suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem?⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

↓ SERMON

↓ HYMN *When We Are Tested* ACS #922 vs. 1, 2, 4

1 *When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.*

2 *When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.*

4 *When we have struggled and searched through
the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.*

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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.

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion, especially *the family of Mary Glenn, Mary Kay Wentz, Henry G., 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, Nevi Zabilski, 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.*

Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted

through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. 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, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Lou O'Connell and Judy Lamb as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. 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

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* #618

**1 *Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.***

**2 *Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.***

**3 *When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.***

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791;
tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 36

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/24 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 3/25 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/26 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Thur 3/27 7:30pm Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)
Sun 3/30 8:45am Pop-up Choir Rehearsal (tentative, upon Starr's return)
9:30am Sunday Worship
Call to Allyship book study follows worship- in the sanctuary

TRINITY IS PLEASED TO AGAIN WELCOME Gail Kiyomura this morning while Starr is recovering from surgery.

AFTER WORSHIP THIS MORNING, join us in the Fellowship Hall to make origami paper cranes for use in our worship space during Holy Week and Easter. Led by Ozzy, we'll learn something new together and help make our sanctuary beautiful!

BOOK STUDY on "Call to Allyship" will **NOT** meet this morning, due to our Lenten paper-cranes making activity. We will meet next Sunday after worship in the sanctuary (we've outgrown the meeting room!). Did you miss last week but are still interested? We'd love to have you join us next week- let Jessica know if you need a book.

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.

TAIZE AND SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER

Wednesday, March 25th

Taize begins at 5:00pm, Soup Supper to follow at 5:30-5:45pm

Please see the sign-up sheet in the church entryway to sign up to bring a soup or bread to share.

RIDE THE RAILS TO STOP CANCER *A Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) fundraiser*

Our first fundraiser for the 2025 Trinity Terrific Trekker's Relay for Life Team is here! Join us for a fun afternoon riding the steam train. Here is the information: **Sunday, April 27th, 2025** A 90 minute train ride departing from the Sunol Train Depot (6 Kilcare Road, Sunol) Rides leave at 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm. Tickets: \$25 Adults \$15 children 2-12 Free for children under 2 years old. Please reserve your spot by contacting Joanne Robinson. She will collect the money and make reservations. You may also contact her with any questions. Money needs to be in by Friday, April 18th (Good Friday). Checks payable to American Cancer Society.

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON! Please see Jessica this morning to review and confirm your entry in the Church Directory so that we have the correct phone numbers and email addresses ahead of printing new copies. We hope to have the most up to date directories in your hands on Sunday, April 6th.

COFFEE HOUR NEEDS HOSTS beginning next week. Please look at the sign-up sheet and see where you might be able to fill-in.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

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 Sunday, 3/30

Assisting Minister:
Reader: Demeter Lamb
Greeters: Ken & Candace Gutleben
Children's Attendant: Jessica Fleischman
Coffee Hour: *Needs a host*
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Lou O'Connell (3/26)

Judy Lamb (3/29)