



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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025

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

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

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

Prelude for Lent

Starr Brown

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✠ 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 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#807

1 *Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.*

2 *Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,*

safely to arrive at home.

*Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.*

3 *Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, 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

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 compassion, **you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

↓ Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

↓ SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and

before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’

²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

↓ SERMON

↓ CHOIR *What Is the World Like*

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979
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↑ 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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially *the family of Mary Glenn, Matt Marcheschi, 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. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. 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, Crown Bay Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Susan Widule and Nick Hayes as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. 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

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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 *Restore in Us, O God* #328

- 1 *Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.*
- 2 *O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.*
- 3 *Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.*
- 4 *Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
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↑ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount* (In the setting of
Peter Tchaikowsky's *Concerto, Op. 23*)

Tune: *Nettleton*, 1813
Arr. Cindy Berry
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* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/31	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 4/1	7:30am	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 4/2	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sun 4/6	8:45am	Pop-up Choir Rehearsal
	9:30am	Sunday Worship

Call to Allyship book study follows worship- in the sanctuary

THE EASTER EGG HUNT IS ALMOST HERE! We are collecting wrapped candies or other small items to be stuffed into Easter eggs. If you would like to contribute, please bring in your donations by Sunday, April 12th. There is a basket in the church entryway to place your contributions.

Please note: all items must be individually wrapped, so please avoid things like loose jelly beans.

THE MISSION & SERVICE COMMITTEE will continue their 2025 focus of letter writing for advocacy in April with letters to our congress representatives asking them to protect and strengthen programs for children and families, namely the SNAP and WIC programs. Please join us on April 6th and April 13th during Coffee Hour to participate.

Our February letter writing to our congress representatives directed towards Social Security and Medicare collected 26 letters to each of our Congress people, which means 78 letters were collected and sent!

BOOK STUDY on "Call to Allyship" will. We will meet this morning after worship in the sanctuary (we've outgrown the meeting room!).

Did you our first meeting but are still interested? Join the discussion this morning and we'll get a book to you next week!

OUR NEXT LENTEN ACTIVITY will take place on Thursday, April 10th. Beginning at Noon, it will be a light luncheon with program following. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church entryway to RSVP for lunch, which will be provided by Trinity.

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. Please look at the sign-up sheet and see where you might be able to fill-in.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Sherri Bangert
Reader: Demeter Lamb
Greeters: Ken & Candace Gutleben
Children's Attendant: Jessica Fleischman
Coffee Hour: Marvera Kline
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 4/6

Assisting Minister:
Reader:
Greeters:
Children's Attendant:
Coffee Hour: *Needs a host*
Altar Guild: Marvera Kline

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8



Catie Norboe (3/31)

Susan Widule (3/31)

Nick Hayes (4/4)