



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.

First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025

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

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

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 * *On Eagle's Wings* #787 vs. 1,3,4

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain

***And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.***

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. Refrain**

**4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

Final refrain

***And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.***

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957
Text © 1979 OCP Publications, Portland, OR

↑ 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. O Lord God, **you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.”

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

↓ Psalm 91:1-2,9-16

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.”**
⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

↓ SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),
⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.
¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”
⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

⁹ Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ CHOIR *Now Is the Time of Grace*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

↑ 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.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially *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 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.* 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 Lutheran Church in El Cerrito, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Elizabeth Madaras,

Dorothy Wingire, Stevie O'Connell and Matthew Pearce as they celebrate their birthdays this week. 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

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow 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 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* #325

- 1** *I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 2** *In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 3** *When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

Text: African American spiritual

↑ 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: 43

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 3/10 *Dine & Connect hosted at Trinity*
 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 3/11 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 3/12 *No Women's Bible Study this week- join us for Pi(e) Day luncheon*
 12:00pm Pi(e) Day Luncheon
Sun 3/16 8:45am Pop-up Choir Rehearsal
 9:30am Sunday Worship

TRINITY IS PLEASED TO WELCOME Erin Downey 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.

PI(E) DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, March 12th 12:00pm

Bring a savory or sweet pie to share in honor of pi(e) day.

We'll enjoy fellowship together and Pastor Jill will show a short video and lead a conversation on "*The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters*" by Priya Parker

BOOK STUDY Pastor Jill and Demeter will co-lead a book study on "Call to Allyship", by Angela T. !Khabeb, 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 on March 16th.

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."

THE MISSION & SERVICE COMMITTEE will have an Offering of Letters today during Coffee Hour. We will be writing to urge our congress representatives to help protect Social Security and Medicare. AARP has written form letters that we will work from, and you are welcome to write one or sign the copies we have available. After the March 9th letter-writing we will send packets of our letters to each of our congress reps. Please talk with Kathy Booker if you have any questions or would like more information.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Sherri Bangert
Reader: Mark Schoenrock
Greeters: Margie Sherratt & Joanne Robinson
Children's Attendant: Danielle Glenn
Coffee Hour: Marvera Kline
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Sunday, 3/16

Assisting Minister: Karol Luque
Reader: Stan Booker
Greeters: Marilyn Ohm-Smith & John Kofranek
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons
Coffee Hour: *needs a host- please see the sign-up sheet*
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35



Elizabeth Madaras (3/11)
Dorothy Wingire (3/11)
Stevie O'Connell (3/15)
Matthew Pearce (3/15)