



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.

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 6, 2026

www.trinityalameda.org

Rev. Jill Ross, Interim Pastor- revjilliross@gmail.com

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

Parents/caregivers of children who are six or younger are welcome to take their children to the children's room during the worship service for childcare. If you are new or visiting Trinity, please see a greeter who will show you where the children's room is located. You are welcome to bring them back for a blessing during communion or pick them up at the conclusion of worship.

↓ 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, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust,
by permission of David Higham Associates.

↑ 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

Page 204

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth; we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

↑ GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.-**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ CHOIR

Blest Be the Ties That Bind

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

↑ 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.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

↓ Psalm 119:33-40 (read responsively)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness eliven me.**

↓ SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

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.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Today we pray especially for *Chuck LaBel, Paul Meola, Laura Meola, Starr Brown, Chuck Willow, Lily, Sister Pat Nagle, Bonnie Levo, Elizabeth Madaras, Lyla Hanson, Dennis Assid, Juliane Pew, Tracie Rasmussen, Harry Olsen, Jose Hernandez, Tanas and his parents, Paul M., Sonya, Michelle Koka, Nevi Zabilski, Ann Kenyon, Ginny Parsons, Lou O'Connell, Ryan Simpson, Peter Dow, Constance Farber, Alan Petersen, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Tricia, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Michael Rasmussen, Kate Ganschow, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, and Dorothy Wingire.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, Trinity's Call Committee, the priesthood of all believers, All Saints Lutheran Church in Novato, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We

give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Dan Norboe, Christine Winberg, and Meg Brogan as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 206

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 FOR THE DAY

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

Page 207

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, in the highest.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-sanna in the high-est, ho-sanna in the high-est.*

↑ 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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
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

Page 208

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

↑ 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. Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

↑ HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* #881

- 1 *Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*
- 2 *God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"*

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

↓ DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

↓ POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: **48**

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 9/7 9:30am Craft Group
Wed 9/9 7:30am Early Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
10:00am Women's Bible Study
Thur 9/10 7:00pm Education Committee Meeting (meets on Zoom)
Sun 9/13 9:30am Worship- Gods Work. Our Hands. Sunday

NEXT SUNDAY! 2026 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. KITS Please plan to join us on September 13th for God's Work Our Hands Sunday as we compile the baby kits along with Dinner in a Bag kits for our Little Free Pantry and Dine & Connect guests.

WE ARE SEEKING TWO MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP with weekly communion set-up and clean up. Might this be you? It requires a once a month commitment, set on rotation. It's pretty easy and we will show you the ropes! Please let Jessica or Pastor Jill know if you can help this way.

COFFE HOUR NEEDS SOME HOSTS- Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway if you would like to sign up. *The months of September and October have many openings, including next Sunday, September 13th.*

MIDWAY SHELTER MEAL



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dan Norboe (9/7)
Christine Winberg (9/9)
Meg Brogan (9/11)

Assisting in Worship

Assisting Minister: Meg Brogan
Reader: Mary Kay Wentz
Greeters: Kathy & Stan Booker
Children's Attendant: Karol Luque
Coffee Hour: **OPEN**
Altar Guild: Marvera Kline

Assisting in Worship 9/13

Assisting Minister: Candace Gutleben
Reader: Ken Gutleben
Greeters: John Kofranek & Marilyn Ohm-Smith
Children's Attendant: Mary James
Coffee Hour: **OPEN**
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next week's lessons:

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35