

The glory  
that you have  
given me

I have  
given them,

so that  
they  
may be

**ONE,**

as we are  
**ONE...**

John 17:22, NRSV

**May 24, 2020**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

May 24, 2020  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

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## **GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING**

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Click here for a video of the full service.

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **SINGING BOWL**

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

*P: Christ is risen.*

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.*

**All: Amen.**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: A new day has begun.

**All: Hope wins!**

L: A fresh start is granted.

**All: Faith wins!**

L: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

**All: Hope wins!**

L: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

**All: Faith wins!**

L: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

**All: Love wins!**

L: Let us worship Christ,

**All: who overcame death to give us new life!**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*P: God, we believe you have called us to unity, but often we have isolated ourselves from others,*

**All: God, forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on those who are different.**

*P: God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body,*

**All: God, forgive us for the times we have created division within your worldwide church.**

*P: God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others,*

**All: God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.**

*P: God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name,*

**All: Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.**

*P: God, we believe you call us to be one even as you are one,*

**All: Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one.**

## Silence for Reflection

*P: God and Creator of all humankind, your son Jesus Christ prayed that your church might be one even as you our God are one.*

**All: May you renew our minds and rekindle your love in our hearts, so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that you intend for us.**

*P: God, may we see in your Oneness our need for unity,*

**All: God, may we see in your Three-ness our need for community**

*P: God, may we see in your creativity our need for diversity,*

**All: God, may we see in your Self our need to love each other. Amen.**

## INVOCATION

*P: Hear our prayers, O God, as we come to sing your praises.*

**All: Bless us with your steadfast love, in times of peace and in times of trial.**

*P: Make your presence known to us this day, for we seek to know you better.*

**All: Enliven us with your Spirit of truth, and increase our faith, even as we place our hope and trust in you.**

## A LITANY FOR UNITY

L: O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

**All: Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.**

L: Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

**All: O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you,**

L: and we love you with our whole being,

**All: because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.**

L: Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways,

**All: united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love.**

L: Love has overcome.

**All: Love is victorious.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

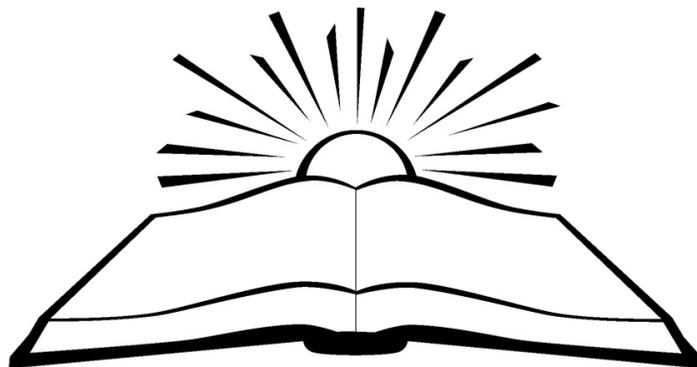
L: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.

**All: Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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### **INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

L: These are holy words—words that reveal God’s love, words that inspire our hope, and words that bring us joy.

**All: We will listen for signs of love, hope, and joy in the reading of God’s holy word.**

## **READING . . . Acts 1:1-14**

Luke writes: In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

L: We are witnesses,

**All: and testify to Christ's resurrection in our midst.**

L: We are the body of Christ,

**All: called to reveal Christ's glory and love.**

L: We may be the only face of Jesus that others will see.

**All: We will radiate the love and joy we have found in Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim***

**HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim***

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways.

**All: Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: O, God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We give you thanks for all who have died in service to nation. We also remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**



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**BENEDICTION**

*P: People of God, let's not just stand here, gazing into heaven as the disciples did after they saw Jesus leave.*

**All: Instead, let's take up the mission Jesus left us: to be his witnesses, to tell everyone we meet who Jesus is, and how he has changed us.**

*P: And may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with us all.*

**All: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

*L: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!*

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

**SINGING BOWL**

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Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist/Lector: Art and Cheryl Kuhlmann

Music: Leilani Camara and Dean Sieglaff

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

*Jesus'*  
**ASCENSION**