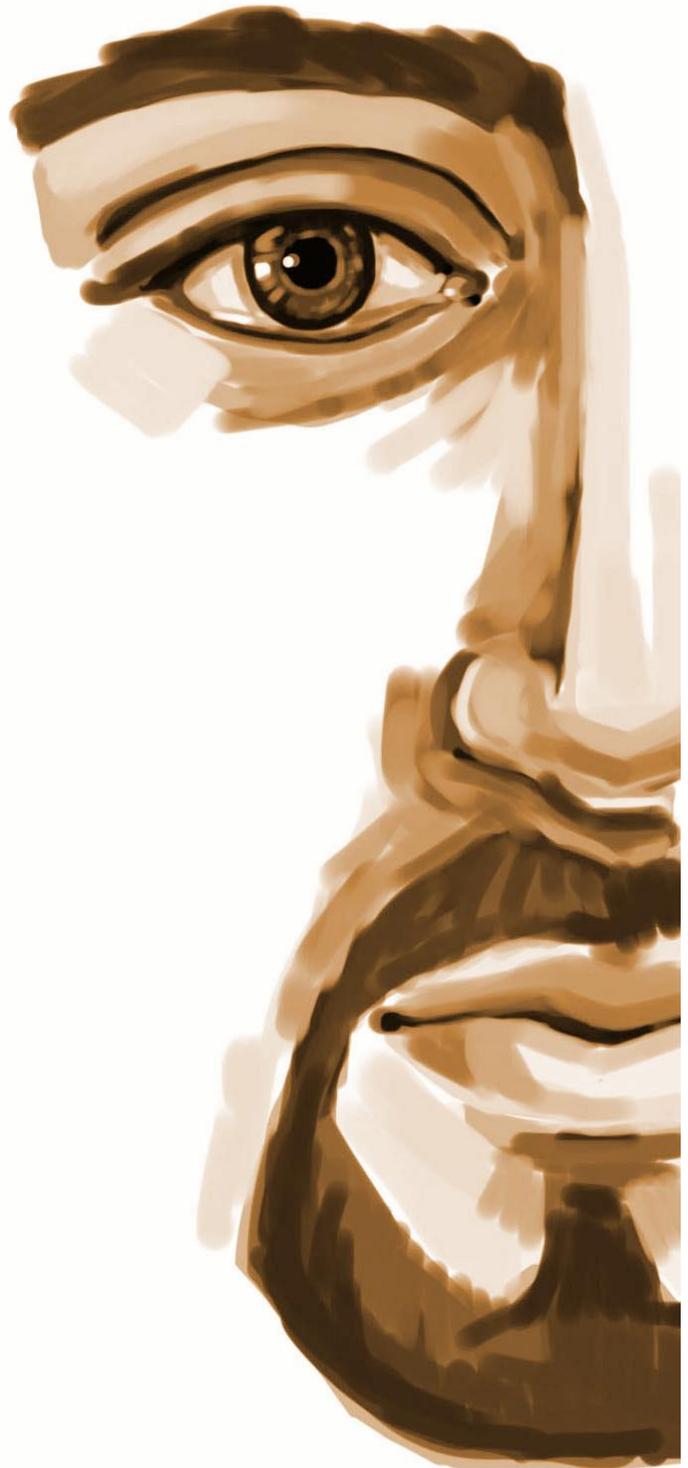


He asked them,

**“But
who
do you
say
that I
am?”**



August 23, 2020

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

August 23, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . “*We’ve Come This Far by Faith*”
Favorite Hymn of Cheryl Hall

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

*P: Faithful God, we come into your presence with thanksgiving,
deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness you have
shown toward us, your people.*

All: When we call out to you, you answer.

P: When we are exhausted,

All: you give us the strength to go on.

P: When we find ourselves in trouble,

All: you are there, standing beside us.

*P: And so we come before you with gratitude and praise, offering
you the worship of our hearts and lives.*

**All: Open our eyes to see and know you here among us; open
our ears to recognize your voice.**

*P: And then send us out from here, to live and work in the world as
your faithful disciples.*

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind, we come together.

All: The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not Christ's ways.

L: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power we gather as Koinonia, as God's people.

All: God's ways are inclusive, expansive, and life-giving for all peoples.

L: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits! Swim and splash in the cleansing waters of divine community! Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One!

All: The Spirit's peace eases our pain.

L: When all hope of fellowship seems lost, God's grace restores our hope.

All: Praise be to the Everlasting One!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

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.

LITANY

L: Holy God, before time you named us. Through time you redeem us. You call us, precious in your sight.

All: May we love as you love.

L: Holy One, through the turbulent waters make us steady; your hands holding strong the fragile and weak.

All: May we love as you love.

L: Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives be food for the hungry, bread, clothing, shelter, fire, water, Word.

All: May we love as you love.

L: God of justice, remove the chaff of our lives that keeps us from hearing, following, your call.

All: May we love as you love.

L: Loving God, take this day our fears, our worries, distractions, and all - turn them into wheat, heart food.

All: May we love as you love. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life.

All: Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways.

All: With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.

READING . . . *Romans 12:1-8*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SECOND READING . . . *Matthew 16:13-20*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tia of Christ the King Lutheran Church*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,

All: and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

L: Water and word, wine and bread:

All: these are signs of your abundant grace.

L: Nourish us through these gifts,

All: that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You call us into community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. 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 prayers.

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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: You are the body of Christ. May you have the heart of Christ,

All: tender for mercy.

P: May you have the eyes of Christ

All: to see a world in need.

P: May you have the feet of Christ

All: to bring good news.

P: Go in peace!

All: And God will go with us!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

Favorite Hymn of Ellen Di Paola

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Art Kuhlmann

Reader: Cheryl Kuhlmann

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema