

Labor Day



September 06, 2020

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Church: (510) 793-6285

September 06, 2020
14th 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 . . . *“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: Holy God, you are mystery greater than our minds can comprehend.

All: And yet, you have come to us in Jesus and he invites us to stay with him;

P: to follow where he leads

All: so that we may find you whom our hearts seek.

P: We come but we bring with us

All: our doubts

P: our questions

All: our frailties

P: our inability to love one another well.

All: We come, drawn by your haunting love.

P: Immerse us in the waters of your grace. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us.

All: Teach us to love one another with the love of Christ.

P: For we ask it in the many names of Jesus, our Lord,

All: the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,

P: Son of God,

All: Teacher,

P: Savior,

All: the One whose love surrounds us all our days. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From our busy lives, God calls us together to worship and to pray.

All: We are here, Holy One!

L: From different places, Christ calls us to gather, to love, and to live.

All: We are here, blessed Jesus!

L: From unexpected journeys, the Spirit calls us into unity to serve and to grow.

All: We are here, Holy Spirit! Come! Let us worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign if the cross.

P: On this Labor Day Sunday let us lift up all people who labor,

All: either for pay or as volunteers,

P: in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace,

All: here at home and all around the world.

P: We are workers, God, just like you.

All: But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other.

P: Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you.

All: We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions.

P: We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job,

All: or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

P: Creator God, help us to be your people,

All: working for a world where all workers are valued.

P: A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

All: A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

P: And one where those who serve and care for others – in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places – are, themselves, also served and cared for.

All: A world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

Silence for Reflection

P: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

All: When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

A LABOR LITANY

L: For all who have work to do that creates and sustains life,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For volunteers and mentors, for leaders and followers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For those who are unemployed,

All: We ask for jobs.

L: For those who are underemployed,

All: We ask for work that satisfies.

L: For those who work in oppressive systems,

All: We ask relief.

L: For those whose work is demeaning,

All: We ask for respect.

L: Where you need us, O God, to make work available, or joyful, or respectful, or fair,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: Guide the leaders of our communities to make work a reasonable part of our lives,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: When it is time, O God, to rest as you did after creation, in safety and honor,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: For this opportunity to hold up our work in your presence, Holy God,

All: We give you thanks and praise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God the Holy Spirit, you are the restless breath of love that sweeps through the world.

All: You move where you will, breaking down barriers,

L: Stirring hearts to change, making all things possible.

All: Inspire each one of us to hunger and thirst for justice!

L: Come, Spirit of God, sweep through our world bringing great change.

All: May the bounty of your goodness be shared more justly,

L: so all may share in the rich blessings of your creation.

All: And, for us, bring transformation in our praying and living,

L: So that we may act justly, love mercy,

All: and walk humbly with you all the days of our lives. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Hear the word of God,

All: that we might walk in holiness all our days.

Reader: Receive the word of God,

All: that it might be at work within us.

Reader: Heed the word of God,

All: that we may become its servant.

Reader: Today's reading is from Exodus chapter twelve, beginning with the first verse.

READING . . . *Exodus 12:1-14*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: By the word, God calls us into covenant.

All: May the divine word work within us.

Reader: May we be receptive students of it.

All: May it show us the call of service in Christ's holy Church.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: To you, O God, we offer our praise. For you, we offer our gifts.
With you, we offer our lives in service to the world.

All: Teach us to embody your word in action and service, that we may present ourselves as living sacrifices to you and your holy word.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. 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: The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you. You are the salt of the earth and you bring light to the world. You are not too young or too old, you are not too rich or too needy

All: to bring good news to the impoverished,

P: to give a hand to the broken-hearted,

All: and to live out freedom and pardon through the gifts we have been given.

P: So remember to pack peace in your toolbox, hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box, and may integrity, honesty, and joy be what you wear.

All: We will not be frightened, for we are never alone. The God in whose image we are made will walk with us and guide us today, tomorrow, and every day.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Marta Wicke

Reader: Nate Wicke

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

