

God's Work -- Our Hands



Rally Day

September 13, 2020

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

September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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

PRELUDE . . . “All Are Welcome”

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: We are part of the Church universal – faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age and ability, gathered to love and serve God.

All: We are an Open and Affirming church.

L: Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!

All: There is a place in God’s heart, there is a place at Christ’s table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people.

L: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

All: May our hearts be open to Christ’s leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for Reflection

P: Faithful God, have mercy on us.

All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

P: We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

All: We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

P: We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

All: We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

P: Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you

All: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection,

All: Christ has made us his own.

P: Hear the truth that God proclaims: Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

All: We will. Amen.

RALLY DAY LITANY

L: Loving God, we thank you for all the blessings of the summer that is past,

All: and we pray for your help for the new term of Christian Education that is about to begin.

L: Let it be a year of shared learning, O God!

All: Deepen the knowledge of your Word among us.

L: Accept our commitment to the strengthening of Christian education,

All: and keep us faithful in fulfilling it.

L: Make it a year of shared worship, O God!

All: Sharpen our skill in the art of common prayer.

L: Let our music sound forth with power. Let our choirs and bands sing joyously of your love.

All: Let instruments of all types add their sounds of glad praise.

L: Let it be a year of shared witness, O God!

All: Help us to strive together for a deeper faith.

L: And give us courage, tact and a keen sense of timing

All: for sharing our faith with friends.

L: Make it a year of shared concern, O God!

All: Help us, as inhabitants of this wonderful, fragile planet, to be better stewards of its resources.

L: Compel us, to secure food and justice for the poor.

All: Empower us, as objects of your reconciling love, to work in the ministry of reconciliation.

L: O God, you have been our help in ages past:

All: You alone are our hope for years to come.

L: Be our help still, for we rest our hope in you,

All: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Dear God our creator, you have fashioned us carefully with your hands.

All: We have come to offer you our worship and praise.

L: You know us better than we know ourselves, and you alone comprehend the value of every creature and of all that exists.

All: Help us become all that we were created to be, and help us love you and our neighbors with all that we are.

L: May we follow the way of Jesus,

All: not in the hope of what we might gain, but for all we might give in the spirit and joy of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Hear the word of God,

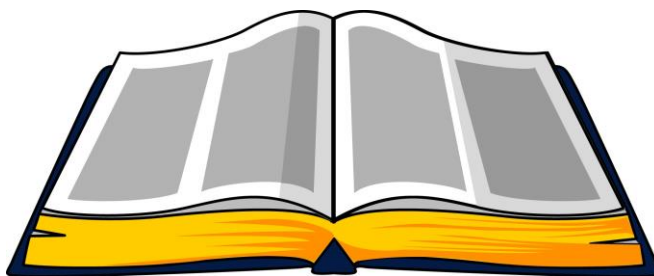
All: that we might walk in holiness all our days.

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.



READING . . . *Exodus 14:19-31*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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. You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

L: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

L: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

L: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. 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

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

P: Our hands have created war and terror and have drawn lines between friends and enemies. Now we search for freedom, lasting peace and radical reconciliation.

All: Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

P: Our hands have created hunger and poverty, homelessness and unemployment. Now we long to be fed, sheltered and given new opportunities.

All: Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

P: Our hands have polluted your creation and misused our resources. Now we seek clean air, soil, water and abundant life for all living things.

All: Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

P: Our hands have broken homes, communities and nations with fear, abuse and violence. We plead for safety and wholeness.

All: Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

P: Our hands have brought discrimination and oppression based on race and class. Now we look for unity in diversity and the freedom to live in holy community with one another.

All: Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

P: Your hands created the world, and your life redeems it. Even now we see your reign of peace among us.

All: For our hands and your work, O God, we praise you today and every day.

DISMISSAL

L: We conclude with the Dismissal:
Go in peace. Christ is with you.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “God’s Work, Our Hands”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Carmen Blair

Reader: Cheryl Hall

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema