



**November 15, 2020**

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

November 15, 2020  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

---

## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

---

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

**PRELUDE . . .** *“O, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”*

**WELCOME**

**SINGING BOWL**

**INVOCATION**

*P: When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when  
clouds dull the sky,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when  
the sun sets,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: When love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers  
the land,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come  
to know that God is there,*

**All: suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us  
stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us  
sing a new song.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God calls us to use our gifts for the building of God's kingdom.

**All: But we're afraid.**

L: Christ urges us to find our courage and not look back.

**All: But our gifts seem so small.**

L: The Spirit offers us everything we need.

**All: But what if we fail?**

L: Trust the gifts you have been given.

**All: We will celebrate our gifts as we worship God this day.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

*P: God of Creation, we confess that we have squandered your gifts*

**All: and used them as if they had been given for us alone.**

*P: We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church.*

**All: We have not done your will,**

*P: we have broken your law,*

**All: we have rebelled against your love,**

*P: we have not loved our neighbors,*

**All: and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

*P: Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,*

**All: through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silence for Reflection

*P: Hear the Good News: We have not been faithful in all things, but our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.*

*Therefore, as people of God's promise, let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, and faithfully respond, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**All: Glory to God! We are forgiven. We have hope. We will respond. Amen.**

## LITANY

L: What a scramble our lives can be. We rush from place to place.

**All: We live on a knife-edge, ready it would seem, to throw our lot in with those who surrender to the negatives of our humanity.**

L: What a relief to come into a time like this where we can feel a quietening presence;

**All: where people can come together and find a common purpose and a unifying spirit.**

L: This whole world needs to re-find its sanity

**All: lest people come to believe that all their stresses are inevitable.**

L: So I say, let a good peace come over this world; let peace come to these places;

**All: let all who come here, all their friends and their families know a strong and healthy peace with them.**

L: O God, we have been too long and too much with our eyes on the wrong things, even though we believe them to be right.

**All: Lift our eyes to a bigger, better dimension, to be participants in your broadening good presence.**

L: We know the pains and the prejudices of life...

**All: Help us to experience the best kindness and the gentlest healing that flow from the very heart of the universe.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.

**All: Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## 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 . . . *Judges 4:1-15*

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'" Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with

him. Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites, that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaananim, which is near Kedesh. When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoiim to the Wadi Kishon. Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day on which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. The Lord is indeed going out before you." So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. And the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: Giver of gifts, you bestow us with talents that are far more precious than jewels.

**All: Open our eyes to the possibilities you hold for our world.**

L: Transform the gifts we offer this day into light and love for the world.

**All: Transform our talents into blessings for a world in need.  
Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

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: Clothed in faith and showered in love,*

**All: we go forth, shining with God's light.**

*P: Washed in joy and bathed in hope,*

**All: we go forth, radiant with Christ's love.**

*P: Blessed with gifts far more precious than jewels,*

**All: we go forth, blazing with the fire of God's Spirit.**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE . . . “On Our Way Rejoicing”**

**SINGING BOWL**

---

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist & Reader: Neal and Rene Bierbaum

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema