



JOHN 3:16, NRSV

March 14, 2021

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

March 14, 2021
4th Sunday in Lent
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

PRELUDE . . . *“For by Grace You Have Been Saved”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

INVOCATION

P: God of immeasurable grace,

**All: you meet us in our time of need and cause your face to shine
upon us.**

P: You sent your Son into the world,

All: that we might be saved;

P: and you fashioned us into vessels of your love and light.

All: Redeem us this day, O God,

*P: that we may be found worthy of the one who came to bring us
life.*

All: Amen.



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Creator and Sovereign, our world and our lives are often full of threat.

All: We return to you in this place today to be reminded that you do not abandon us to the hard realities of our lives.

L: You are the one who saves us.

All: You are the one who faithfully teaches us your life-giving ways.

L: You are the one who instills courage within us to stand up from the waters of our baptism and to walk your path.

All: Enter our hearts and lives for your powerful purposes, in the name of our baptized brother Jesus and the soaring Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

All: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Fountain of living water,

All: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

*P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of
God, our sins are forgiven,*

All: and God remembers them no more.

P: Journey in the way of Jesus.

All: Amen.

GREETING

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living
water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.*

All: Amen.

LENTEN LITANY

L: Gracious God, we are tired of our own grumbling.

**All: Though we run around like errant children, we long to
return to your warm embrace.**

L: Though we act as if the odds are stacked against us,

**All: we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love
endures forever.**

L: Though we crouch in the shadows,

**All: we long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us
each day.**

L: Lead us from death into life,

All: that we might live as children of light,

L: and serve one another as heirs of your Son,

All: in whose name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up
this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death.

**All: Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your
love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

Reader: Into whatever journey lies before us,

All: lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.

Reader: Today's reading is from the Gospel of John, chapter three, beginning with the fourteenth verse.

READING . . . Gospel: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Reader: Here ends the reading.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . Carmen Blair

HOMILY . . . Pastor Tim

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need.

All: Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts, said either 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.

BLESSING

P: Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem,

All: so God sends us into the world this day

P: to be light and love,

All: healing and hope.

P: Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day

All: and remain with us always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.

All: We go forth to love and serve God.

POSTLUDE . . . “Amazing Grace”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff
Lay Liturgist: Keith Hillesland
Reader: Sally Bentley
Children’s Time: Carmen Blair
Music: Leilani Camara
Video Editing: Carmen Blair
Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

