



April 25, 2021

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

April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

PRELUDE . . . *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

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.

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is risen!

All: Alleluia!

P: the tomb is empty!

All: Alleluia!

P: Christ is alive!

All: Alleluia!



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the darkest valley,

All: at the banquet table;

L: in the hard work of life,

All: at the moments of ease;

L: in our day-to-day reality,

All: at times set aside—

L: like this time, now—

All: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

L: with every step we take:

All: goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,

All: leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

P: We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

All: like rains to our thirsting earth,

P: like streams that revive our souls,

All: like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

P: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

All: Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P: Make us one, risen Christ.

All: Cleanse our hearts.

P: Shower us with life.

All: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

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

All: Amen.

EASTER LITANY . . . “*You Break In*” by Roddy Hamilton

L: You break in, O God, on the road;

All: you break in, O God, exactly the way we don’t believe;

L: you break in, O God,

All: and change everything.

L: You break in, O God, with a call;

All: you break in, O God, with an invitation;

L: you break in, O God,

All: with the truth.

L: You break in, O God, with a new realm;

All: You break in, O God, with a new world;

L: You break in, O God,

All: with your intent for the future.

L: God, break in again and call us to be your workers.

All: God, break in again and use the gifts we are to build your realm.

L: God, break in again

All: and change our world once more.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection.

All: Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: God of light and love,

All: open our hearts to your message of unity.

Reader: Open our minds to the light of your wisdom.

All: Open our lives to the call of your Spirit.

Reader: Reveal to us your holy presence,

All: as we listen and learn this day. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING . . . *Acts 4:5-12*

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

PSALM . . . *Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING . . . 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL . . . John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So

there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Tori Valcarcel*

HOMILY . . . *Tori Valcarcel*

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: Let us respond with the Offertory Prayer:
Shepherd of love, bless these gifts with the power and presence of your love.

All: May your love bring healing to a world in need of your touch.

L: May your grace bring hope to a world in need of your promise.

All: And may our love be a sign, for all to see, that you, who are love, are present in the world today. Amen.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH . . . *by Lutherans Restoring Creation*

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

L: In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

L: In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

L: As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we pray: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of the sun and the moon, of the mountains, deserts, and plains; God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes, and streams; God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air; God of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth, we are formed by Christ into your people, called to bring the

world into your marvelous light. As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation. We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created. Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged, to care for what you have made good and holy, we pray: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our mind, our hearts, and our ways. Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation which is to come, we pray: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Creator God,

All: hear our prayer.

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: Go now to love, even when love involves risk.

All: We go now to love, as God loves us.

P: Go now to care, even when caring is hard.

All: We go now to care, as God cares for us.

P: Go now to love, in truth and in action.

All: By this we are known as children of God.

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.

All: **We go forth to love and serve God.**

POSTLUDE . . . *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist and Reader: Terri MacFarlane and Bethany Stevenin

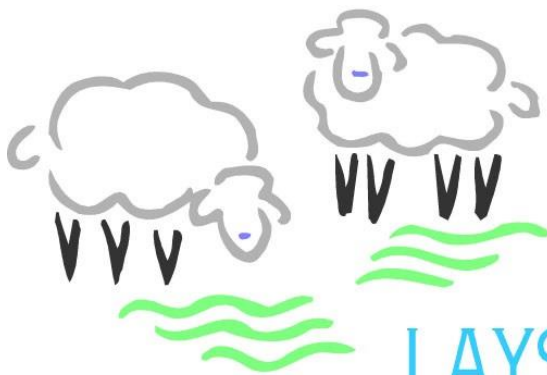
Homilist: Tori Valcarcel, Ministry in Context Student

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.



THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

LAYS DOWN HIS

LIFE FOR
THE SHEEP.

JOHN 10:11

