



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV

July 04, 2021

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

July 04, 2021
6th 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 . . . “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

P: Creator and Ruler of humankind: while songs of our nation’s birth ring in our hearts, remind us to celebrate the oneness of the race you have created and the openness of the church you have loved.

All: And help us, who are your church in this place, to be truly open to all your children and to pray for the coming of the day when all shall be one in Jesus who has broken down all the walls that now divide us. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: We are here, Holy Creator!

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

All: We are here, loving Redeemer!

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.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

P: Prophetic One, you call us to new places and new ways.

All: You challenge us to dance new steps and to sing new songs.

P: We yearn to follow you with confidence and joy, but our resistance is often stronger than our willingness.

All: At times, our steps falter.

P: At moments, we can't even hear your voice, let alone recognize your song in our hearts.

All: Strengthen us with your mercy.

P: Renew us with your grace.

All: Sing to us with your compassion.

P: Connect us with your unconditional love, that we may follow joyously, dance confidently, and sing praise and love with every act and with every word of our lives.

All: In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

P: Rejoice and give thanks.

All: With grace, Christ is already carrying our burdens to renew our souls.

P: With mercy,

All: Christ is already shouldering our load to strengthen our lives.



A FOURTH OF JULY LITANY

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us and may God's face shine upon us,

All: that God's ways may be known on earth, God's salvation among all nations.

L: May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

All: May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

L: From his dwelling place God watches all who live on earth

All: who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

L: No king is saved by the size of his army;

All: no warrior escapes by his great strength.

L: But the eyes of the Lord are on those who remain faithful, on those whose hope is in God's unfailing love,

All: to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

L: From you, Lord, comes the theme of my praise:

All: The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise – may faithful hearts live forever!

L: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before God,

All: for dominion belongs to the Lord and God rules over the nations.

L: All of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before the Lord – those who cannot keep themselves alive.

All: Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the Lord.

L: We wait in hope for the Lord; God is our help and our shield.

All: In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in God's holy name.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom.

All: Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: May the words of my mouth...

All: and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

READING . . . *2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my

weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL . . . *Mark 6:1-13*

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: God of Mercy, you believe in us, and offer us love to change our lives.

All: **Help us now believe in you, whether fearful and trembling or confidently at peace.**

Reader: May your word be alive in our souls, so that hope may not die,

All: but only sleep for awhile, waiting to awake.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,

All: and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

L: Water and word, wine and bread:

All: these are signs of your abundant grace.

L: Nourish us through these gifts,

All: that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us come before the triune God in prayer. God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. God, 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: God, in your mercy,

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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Let us delight in the steadfast love of God,

All: as we share our weaknesses or celebrate our strengths.

P: Let us rejoice in God's glory,

All: as we rejoice in our individual and our communal callings.

P: Let us sing of God's name,

All: as we journey throughout God's great earth.

P: Let us remember God, who guides our path, the Christ who strengthens us, and the Spirit who nurtures us.

**All: May the divine image dance within us forevermore.
Amen.**

DISMISSAL

L: Go forth, as people renewed by the love of God.

All: We go forth, to renew others with this very love.

POSTLUDE . . . "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist and Reader: Neal & Rene Bierbaum

Music: Leilani Camara and Dean Sieglaff

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

