



“IF ANYONE
DESIRES TO BE FIRST,
HE SHALL BE LAST OF ALL
AND SERVANT OF ALL.”

MARK 9:35, NKJV

September 19, 2021

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

September 19, 2021
17th 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 . . . *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* vs. 1,2,4

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

L: God of abundant love, pour your love and your Spirit upon us, that we may recognize our abundance and give our love and our lives completely and freely to you.

All: In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is our refuge and stronghold.

All: We will place our trust in God.

L: God’s faithful love protects us.

All: We will not be afraid.

L: When times are troubling,

All: God will be with us.

L: When we cry out,

All: God will answer us.

L: Through the years of our lives,

All: God is with us.

L: We look to the future with hope,

All: for God is our solid foundation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

L: Seek Christ and the strength of God's love,

All: for this love brings us mercy and grace.

L: Sustainer God, you nourish us in every way. Forgive us when we reject your love and care. Open our eyes when we neglect your gifts and ignore your presence.

All: Draw close to us, that we may recognize your abiding presence and guiding love.

L: Reclaim us as your own, that we might live for Christ and answer his call of discipleship.

All: In the name of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

L: The living water of Christ rushes into our lives, bringing mercy and grace.

All: In this living water, we are washed clean and made whole; we are forgiven and reclaimed by God! Amen.

LITANY

L: If it had not been God who was on our side,

All: the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

L: If it had not been God who was on our side,

All: the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

L: Are any among us suffering?

All: Come and pray.

L: Are any among us cheerful?

All: Come sing songs of praise.

L: Are any among us sick?

All: Come and ask for healing.

L: Our help is in our God,

All: the One who made heaven and earth.

L: Call upon God, creator and rescuer.

All: God is on our side.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children.

All: Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Abiding Spirit, may our hearts be opened to the mystery of the gospel,

All: that the Creator of life may be made known to all. Amen.

FIRST READING . . . *Psalm: Psalm 54*

Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,

those who have no regard for God.

Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: *James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.

Reader: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the wellspring of our salvation.

All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.

Reader: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

KN: The holy gospel according to Mark, chapter nine, beginning with the thirtieth verse.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . Mark 9:30-37

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

KN: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Karen Narveson

MESSAGE . . . Karen Narveson

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: When the Spirit flows through us, we are people of honesty and justice.

All: When Christ works within us, we are disciples of mercy and compassion. Let us be agents of God’s overflowing grace as we collect today’s offering.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of love and service,

All: we thank you for loving and serving us through the grace of your Son, Christ Jesus.

L: Bless these gifts, that others may be loved and served in our giving.

All: Bless our lives, that we may love and serve one another as you have loved and served us. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. 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

L: *Go forth with care and compassion. Go forth to serve and to love.*

All: We go forth as children of God!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “Loving Spirit” vs. 1,2,3

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Welcome: Carmen Blair

Lay Liturgist & Reader: The Wicke Family & The Narveson Family

Children’s Time & Message: Karen Narveson

Music: Leilani Camara & Dean Sieglaff

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland & Kathy Miedema