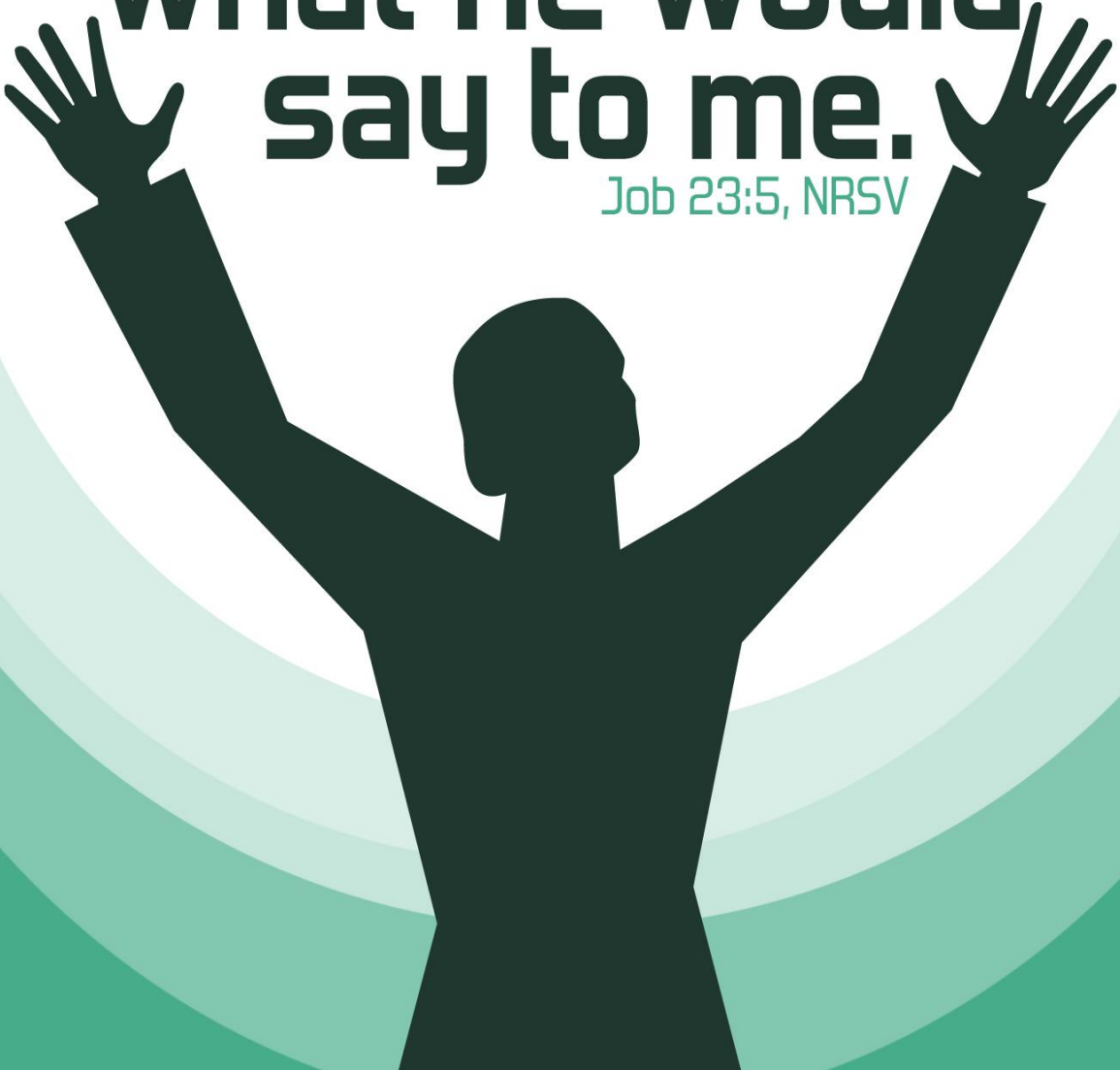


I would learn  
**what he would  
answer me,**  
and understand  
**what he would  
say to me.**  
Job 23:5, NRSV



**October 10, 2021**

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

October 10, 2021  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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

**PRELUDE . . .** *“Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment”* vs. 1,2

**WELCOME**

**SINGING BOWL**

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

**INVOCATION**

*P: 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.

*P: Ever-present God, we find so much to worry about. The world seems a scary place,*

**All: filled with violence and destruction.**

*P: Things seem to be coming apart*

**All: and we don't know what the future holds.**

*P: Our possessions take so much energy and focus that we ignore those in need,*

**All: even when they are right in front of us.**

*P: Help us place our trust in you, O God.*

**All: Remind us of your continuing care for all creation.**

*P: Teach us to see the needs of the world and to respond with care and compassion,*

**All: that we may be faithful, peaceful, loving people.**

Time of silence for reflection

*P: Put your hope in God, who richly provides for our needs. Enjoy God's good gifts*

**All: as we share what we have with others.**

## 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: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead,

**All: we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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## **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.**

## **FIRST READING . . . *Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (NRSV)***

Job answered [his friend:]

“Today also my complaint is bitter;

[God’s] hand is heavy despite my groaning.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,

that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him,  
and fill my mouth with arguments.  
I would learn what he would answer me,  
and understand what he would say to me.  
Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?  
No; but he would give heed to me.  
There an upright person could reason with him,  
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

“If I go forward, he is not there;  
or backward, I cannot perceive him;  
on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;  
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.  
God has made my heart faint;  
the Almighty has terrified me;  
If only I could vanish in darkness,  
and thick darkness would cover my face!”

**SECOND READING . . . Psalm 22:1-21 (The Inclusive Bible)**

“My God, my God,  
why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far away,  
so far from saving me,  
so far from the words of my groaning?  
I cry all day, my God, but you never answer;  
I call all night long, and sleep deserts me.

But you, Holy One—  
you sit enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
Our ancestors put their trust in you;  
they trusted and you rescued them;  
they cried to you and were saved;  
they trusted you and were never disappointed.

Yet here I am, more worm than human,  
the scorn of humanity, an object of ridicule:  
all who see me mock me;  
they shake their heads and sneer,  
“You trust in God? Ha! Let God save you now!  
If God is your friend, let God rescue you!”  
Yet you drew me out of the womb;  
you nestled me in my mother’s bosom;  
you cradled me in your lap from my birth;  
from my mother’s womb you have been my God.  
Don’t stand aside now that trouble is near—  
I have no one to help me!

“My enemies are like a herd of bulls surrounding me,  
like the strong bulls of Bashan closing in on me;  
with jaws open wide to swallow me,  
they’re like lions tearing their prey, and roaring.  
I am like water draining away;  
my bones are all disjointed;  
my heart is like wax melting inside me.  
My strength is dried up like a piece of clay pottery  
and my tongue is stuck to the roof of my mouth:  
you lay me down in dusty death.  
A pack of dogs surrounds me;  
a gang of brigands close me in;  
they pierce my hands and feet.  
I can count every one of my bones,  
and there they stare at me, gloating.  
They divide my garments among them  
and cast lots for my clothes.

But you, Yahweh, don’t be far off!  
My strength, hurry to help me!  
Rescue my life from the sword,

my dear life from the power of these dogs!  
Save me from the lion's mouth,  
my poor soul from the wild bull's horns!

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

## **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: Pour out your Holy Spirit,

**All: and bless the gifts we return to you now.**

L: May they be as soothing ointment

**All: for a hurting and broken world.**

L: Bless the gifts of our lives,

**All: and inspire us as we share generously and give abundantly, the bounty we have received.**

L: In faithfulness and gratitude, we pray.

**All: 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. Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. 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, using the language or translation we choose:

**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.**

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**GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING**

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**BENEDICTION**

*P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.*

**All: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE . . . “Lord of Light” vs. 1,4**

**SINGING BOWL**

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Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Terri MacFarlane

Reader: Sally Bentley

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema