



Let us come before his presence  
*with thanksgiving,*  
and make a joyful noise unto him  
*with psalms.*

For the Lord is a  
*great God*  
and a great King  
*above all gods.*

Psalm 95:2-3

**November 21, 2021**

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

November 21, 2021  
Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday  
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 . . .** *“Rejoice, for Christ Is King!”* vs. 1,2,3

**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: Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy and peace be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**All: O Lord my God, you are very great.**

L: Today brings all we need to praise our loving God.

**All: Creator, you have made us in your image.**

L: Today brings all we need to live in peace and purpose.

**All: Redeemer, you have called us to new life.**

L: Today brings all we need to live abundantly.

**All: Renewer, you have brought us together to sing your praise.**

L: Today brings together many generations who grow together in faith and affirm and support one another.  
**All: Companion, you guide us to your beloved community.**  
L: Today brings a world in need of healing and wholeness.  
**All: Healer, you inspire us to ministry and action.**  
L: For the church, the society and the world,  
**All: Lord our God, we humbly enter into worship.**  
L: Prepare our hearts.  
**All: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

*P: Mighty God, when we confuse your rule in our lives with our personal power, forgive us.*  
**All: Guide us on paths of humility, remembering that your kingdom is not of this world.**  
*P: Guide us on paths of righteousness, partnering with you to bring your kingdom to this world.*  
**All: Guide us on paths of thanksgiving, recognizing that your gifts and blessings enable us to walk in your ways, partner with you in creation, and love as you taught us to love.**  
*P: In trust of your powerful grace and your mighty love, we pray.*  
**All: Amen.**

Time of silent reflection . . .

*P: Christ who is both Alpha and Omega, mercy and grace, power and might, loves us and frees us from our sin,*  
**All: making us a kingdom of compassion and love to bring mercy and grace to this earth.**

## LITANY

L: We gather before you today, O God,

**All: intent on giving you thanks.**

L: We remember the wonders of your past,

**All: even as we yearn for the wonders you have in store for us.**

L: We long to touch your mercy and your care,

**All: for our lives are often sown with tears.**

L: Help our rulers and authorities seek to the building of your kingdom

**All: and the triumph of your righteousness.**

L: Restore our fortunes, O God, like streams watering the wilderness,

**All: that we may reap with shouts of joy what was planted in sorrow. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Renewing God, pour out your power and come. In the waters of baptism you claim us and call us to be your beloved children.

**All: May water be our ever-present sign that you ever make all things new.**

L: Refresh us with the good news of Christ's love and anoint us with your Holy Spirit,

**All: that we might know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom. In the name of Christ, we pray. 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.**

**READING . . . 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

These are the last words of David:

“the oracle of David ben-Jesse,  
the oracle of the person God raised up  
the one anointed by the God of Jacob,  
the favorite of the songs of Israel:

the spirit of Yahweh has spoken through me;  
God’s word was on my tongue.

the God of Israel spoke,

the Rock of Israel said to me:

‘Rulers who govern with justice,  
who rule in the reverence of Yahweh,  
are like the light of mornings at sunrise,  
a cloudless morning after a rain shower,  
that makes the grass of the earth sparkle.’

Yes, my house is right with Yahweh!

Yahweh has made an everlasting covenant with me,  
its terms spelled out and faithfully obeyed;

God will ensure my complete success,  
and bring my every desire to fruition.

But the ungodly are rootless,

they are like abandoned thorns;

none dare put out a hand to pick them up,

none touch them but with a tool or a piece of wood;

they are “fit only for burning where they lie.”

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*P: The holy gospel according to John, chapter eighteen, beginning with the thirty-third verse.*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL . . . John 18:33-37**

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

*P: The gospel of the Lord*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **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: Ruler of creation, through our gifts this day, bring your reign of love and compassion here on earth.

**All: Bless these gifts of thanksgiving and praise, that others may have reason for gratitude and joy. In your mighty love, we pray. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering. Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. 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 which is most familiar to each of 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.**

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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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**BENEDICTION**

*P: Our lives are a story that God is writing.*

**All: We are each at different chapters, in different places, but our ending is the same.**

*P: Wherever God takes us from here, we know that we will one day live with all the Community of Saints.*

**All: As we go from this place, may our story always reflect the greatest story of all, the story of Jesus.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE . . . “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” vs. 1,4**

**SINGING BOWL**



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Pastor: Tim Huff  
Lay Liturgist/Lector: Steve Guerzon & Pamela Metcalf  
Music: Leilani Camara & Dean Sieglaff  
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Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema