



... carry the
CROSS
and follow me ...

Luke 14:27, NRSV

September 4, 2022

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

September 4, 2022
10 AM – 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

A Story that Invites Us

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: As we exchange signs of peace and love with one another, let us first look for the stranger who might one day be our friend.

All: Let us offer signs of peace and love beyond the familiar friends we so often greet.

P: The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: On this Labor Day Sunday let us lift up all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers,

All: in jobs or at school,

P: at home or in the workplace,

All: here at home and all around the world.

P: We are workers, God, just like you.

All: But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other.

P: Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you.

All: We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions.

P: We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits

All: while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

P: Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued.

All: A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

P: A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

All: And one where those who serve and care for others – in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places – are, themselves, also served and cared for.

P: A world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

All: When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

All: and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

L: We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

All: we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.

L: God has called us together, God has called us to be part of a community.

All: God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.

L: In this time together,

All: may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,


L: allowing us to see deeper, helping us to live in the world while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

All: We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.




OPENING HYMN – “Lift High the Cross” vs. 1,2


Refrain



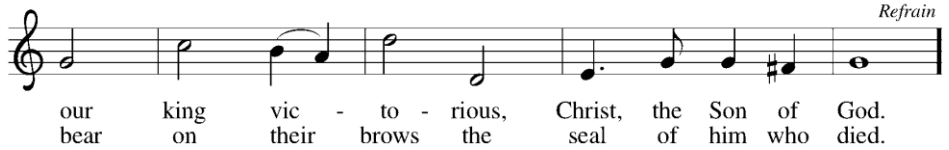
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied



Refrain
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

GREETING

P: God, we gather as people who are tired from our labors. We work hard and sometimes wonder why. We toil in the fields and are surprised that a bigger crop is not yielded. As we begin our day of Sabbath rest, we pray that you would help us to find rest for our weary bodies and renewal for our tired minds.

All: Come alongside of us, God, and grant us your peace. Amen.



A LABOR LITANY

- L: For all who have work to do that creates and sustains life,
All: We give God thanks.
- L: For teachers and students, for doctors and nurses, for farmers and cooks, for waitresses and caregivers,
All: We give God thanks.
- L: For assistants and administrators, for counters and librarians, for manufacturers and laborers, for salespersons and temp workers,
All: We give God thanks.
- L: For writers and artists, for musicians and performers, for engineers and pilots, for bus drivers and truckers,
All: We give God thanks.
- L: For volunteers and mentors, for leaders and followers,
All: We give God thanks.
- L: For those who are unemployed,
All: We ask for jobs.
- L: For those who are underemployed,
All: We ask for work that satisfies.
- L: For those who work in oppressive systems,
All: We ask relief.
- L: For those whose work is demeaning,
All: We ask for respect.
- L: Where you need us, O God, to make work available, joyful, respectful, fair, or reasonable,
All: Direct us in your ways.
- L: When it is time, O God, to rest as you did after creation, in safety and honor,
All: Direct us in your ways.
- L: For this opportunity to hold up our work in your presence, Holy God,
All: We give you thanks and praise.



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Creating God, Giver of life and love, open our hearts to your loving call,

All: that we may hear your voice and rise to follow you.

L: We give you thanks for the gift of life,

All: and pledge to live this gift with love and gratitude.

L: Guide us, Holy One, to respond to those in need: the widows and the orphans,

All: the tired and the weary, the lost and the lonely.

L: We pray in the name of Christ,

All: who taught us how to love. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Listen for the word of God. Strive to understand Christ's teachings.

All: For this indeed is our treasure. May it light our paths and make us ready to take action.

Reader: Today's reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter thirty, beginning with the fifteenth verse.

READING – *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster. For today I command you to "love Yahweh, your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and the customs. If you do, you will live and increase, and Yahweh, your God, will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your hearts stray and you do not listen to me, if you let yourself be drawn into the worship of other gods, and serve them, I tell you today, you will not survive. You will not live long in the land which you are now crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, by loving Yahweh, your God, by obeying God's voice and by clinging to Yahweh. For that will mean life for you, a long life in the land which God swore to give to your descendants Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: God, you come to us at unexpected times and in unexpected places.

All: **With our lamps lit, we will walk by faith. Amen.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

GOSPEL – *Luke 14:25-33*

Large crowds followed Jesus. He turned to them and said, “If any of you come to me without turning your back on your mother and your father, your loved ones, your sisters and brothers, indeed your very self, you can’t be my follower. Anyone who doesn’t take up the cross and follow me can’t be my disciple.

“If one of you were going to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the outlay to see if you have enough money to complete the project? You’d do that for fear of laying the foundation and then not being able to complete the work—because anyone who saw it would jeer at you and say, ‘You started a building and couldn’t finish it.’ Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war on another country, wouldn’t they first sit down and consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they could win against an enemy coming against them with twenty thousand? If they couldn’t, they’d send a delegation while the enemy is still at a distance, asking for terms of peace.

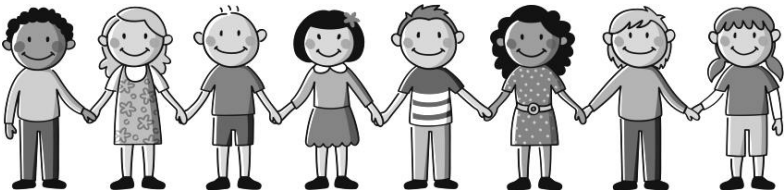
“So count the cost. You can’t be my disciple if you don’t say goodbye to all of your possessions.”

P: The Gospel, the good news of God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – *Pastor Tim*



Please Stand

HYMN – “O God, Beyond All Praising” vs. 1,3



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,
and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;
for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,
at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:
we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,
we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Be Seated

MESSAGE – *Pastor Tim*

A Story that Feeds Us

Please Stand

APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s
Creed:

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: To place God at the center of our lives,

All: let us offer a portion of our gifts back to God, as we bring forth the fruits of our labor.

Be Seated

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE – “Accept, O Lord the Gifts We Bring” vs. 1,3



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Touch these gifts, O God,

All: with your manifold blessings.

L: Touch our very lives,

All: that we may be instruments of your hope.

L: May our gifts and our lives,

All: bring your healing, love, and compassion to a world in need. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: With boundless joy, we give thanks to you, O God of our Creation. From that first spark of life and Spirit: you set the cosmos in motion, you breathed life into humanity, you brought light into the world.

All: Your love amazes us, for even when our love turns to doubt or fear, your love is constant and sure.

P: You delivered our ancestors in faith from captivity, and you deliver us daily from the bonds that prevent us from living as people created in your image.

All: You freed your people and made a covenant to be present always.

P: You have spoken to us through prophets and you speak truth to us through one another. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: *Nurturing God, your greatest gift to us is the grace we know through Jesus Christ.*

All: **Your Spirit descended on him and was manifest in his ministry.**

P: *Through his teachings and example, you showed us how to be with the poor, how to release those heavy laden from burdens, how to free the souls of the weary and anxious, and how to proclaim the good news of grace and peace and abundant love.*

All: **In an act of unimaginable love, you delivered us from hopelessness, and made a new covenant with us through water and the Spirit.**

P: *When Jesus died and rose again into eternity, he promised to abide with us in your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he surrendered himself, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body*

which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
When the meal had ended, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this cup of renewed covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for all the world.

All: To You, O Creator of love and life, through Christ Jesus who makes all life new, in communion with your Holy Spirit who breathes new life into all, we honor and praise you for your everlasting love.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

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.

FRACTION RITE

P: Here is food that satisfies, the taste of communion. Here is wine pouring free, the washing away of fear. Here is life abundant, a table of peace for all.

All: May this peace be in us and among us, a sign of hope for a world renewed.

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD



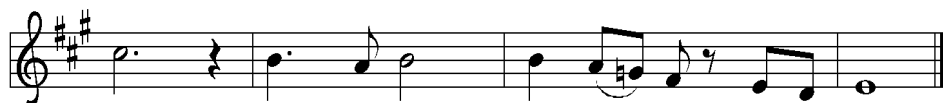
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Holy Communion is open to all.
If you need communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.

For communion at the altar rail:

You may come up the center aisle to the altar rail as space allows, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the wafer into. Then take a cup of grape juice (white) or wine (red) from the assistant, partake, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your disposable cup in the provided bowls.

For communion at your seat with pre-packaged kit:

You may come to altar rail as above, take a communion kit from the assistant, and return to your seat to partake. Or you may remain seated and partake of the communion kit you picked up at the entrance. The ushers will come around to collect empty kits.

COMMUNION HYMN – “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”



1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.



COMMUNION HYMN – “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.

All: Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Loving God, in this meal you sustain the weary and heal the broken.

All: May the gift of your word made flesh, the body and blood of Christ, inspire our tongues to praise you and proclaim to the entire world the Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMISSIONING

P: Go in peace, assured that God has heard, and will continue to hear your prayers.

All: We know that no curtain separates us from the presence of God.

P: Therefore, every table at which you will sit this week, be it a school desk, a work bench, a lunch counter, a meeting room table, an office desk, a board across sawhorses, your own kitchen or dining room table; every table is God's altar.

All: So we will boldly pray, hold fast to hope, and encourage and provoke one another to put love into action. Amen.

SENDING HYMN – “Will You Come and Follow Me” vs. 1,5



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



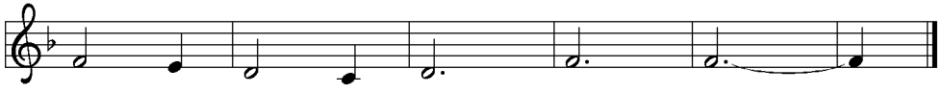
know and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

