

He makes me
lie down in
green pastures;
he leads me beside
still waters ...

Psalm 23:2, NRSV



April 30, 2023

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

April 30, 2023
10 AM – 4th Sunday of Easter
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children’s Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

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

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

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: “*Start a Fire*”

Intro:

Ooo, ooo

Ooo, ooo, Ooo,

ooo, ooo, ooo

Verse 1:

This world can be cold and bitter
Feels like we're in the dead of winter
Waiting on something better
But am I really gonna hide forever?

Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
Let Your light shine, let Your light shine for all to see

Chorus:

Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You
that we need Start a fire in me

Verse 2:

You only need a spark to start a whole blaze
It only takes a little faith Let it start right here in this city
So these old walls will never be the same
Over and over again I hear Your voice in my head
They need to know I need to go
Spirit won't You fall on my heart now

Chorus

Bridge:

You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
We have the hope we bear Your name
We carry the news that You have come to save, yeah
Only You can save, yeah

Chorus

Ending:

You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
Start a fire in me
Ooo, ooo, Ooo, ooo
Ooo, ooo, ,ooo

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: May the peace of the risen Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

All: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

P: In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

All: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

All: Amen.

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Better than Life”

Verse 1:

Your Love is everlasting, it's an Everlasting love;
Your mercy is as new as ev'ry rising of the sun
and Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life
Your grace is all sufficient, it's an all sufficient grace;
Your power and Your glory are forever on display
and Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.

Chorus:

Oh, Oh, Oh, it's better
Oh, Oh, Oh better than life
Oh, Oh, Oh, so much better;
Jesus your loving kindness
Is better than life

Verse 2:

Fairest of ten thousand, of ten thousand you are fair
and nothing in this world could ever measure or compare
to Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.
All Your ways are just oh Lord, You're just in all Your ways
and I will lift my hands oh Lord with gratitude and praise
for Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.

Chorus

Bridge:

Jesus, Your loving kindness
is better than life itself,
Better than life itself
Jesus, Your loving kindness
is better than life itself,
is better than life.

Oh, Oh, Oh, it's better
Oh, Oh, Oh better than life
Oh, Oh, Oh, so much better;

Jesus, your loving kindness
Oh, Oh, Oh it's better
Oh, Oh, Oh better than life
Oh, Oh, Oh so much better
Jesus, Your loving kindness
Is better than life
Better than life!
Better than life!
Better than life!

INVOCATION

P: Worship God in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life is with you all.

All: And also with you.

LITANY

L: Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd, we hear your voice calling us to follow.

All: We remember our ancient brothers and sisters who gathered in prayer and praise.

L: Today, we too gather in prayer and praise.

All: Enliven us with your resurrection power—a power that frees us from despair.

L: Enliven us with your abundant life.

All: Meet our confusion with the truth of your presence.

L: Feed us with the true bread of life, and help us change our hearts and lives,

All: May your living power flow through us in all we are and do! Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.

All: Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in

your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: God of light and love,

All: open our hearts to your message of unity.

Reader: Open our minds to the light of your wisdom.

All: Open our lives to the call of your Spirit.

Reader: Reveal to us your holy presence,

All: as we listen and learn this day. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Reader: The first reading is from Acts, chapter two, beginning with the forty-third verse.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:43-47

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The second reading is Psalm twenty-three.

SECOND READING: *Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

Holy wisdom, Holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *John 10:1-10*

[Jesus said:] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will

run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the risen Savior.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME: Pastor Barbara

Please Stand

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: “*Where I Belong*”

Verse 1:

Sometimes it feels like I’m watching from the outside
Sometimes it feels like I’m breathing, but am I alive?
I won’t keep searching for answers that aren’t here to find

Chorus:

All I know is I’m not home yet.
This is not where I belong.
Take this world and give me Jesus
This is not where I belong.

Verse 2:

So when the walls come falling down on me
And when I’m lost in the current of the raging sea
I have blessed assurance holding me.

Chorus

Bridge:

When the earth shakes, I want to be found in You.

When the lights fade, I want to be found in You.

Chorus:

All I know is I'm not home yet.

This is not where I belong.

Take this world and give me Jesus

This is not where I belong.

(Repeat)

Ending:

Where I belong, where I belong

Where I belong, where I belong

Be Seated

MESSAGE: Pastor Barbara

Please Stand

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

APOSTLE'S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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: What can we give back to God for all the good things
God has done for us?

All: **We can never repay this gift, but we can bring our
gifts for God's work in the world.**

Be Seated

THANKFUL OFFERING


OFFERING SONG: "We Fall Down"

We fall down, we lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus,
The greatness of His mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus.
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb

Repeat

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries and you answer.

All: With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you. We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives.

L: We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy.

All: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O God. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Open up your hearts.

All: We open them to our Creator.

L: Let us give thanks and celebrate.

All: It is good to do so.

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the

tree of life. Send your Spirit upon this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

All: Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Creator, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread!

All: We come to the table of the risen Christ where we are known and loved.

Be Seated



LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the wafer into, then take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the assistant's tray, 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 down the center aisle, 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 SONG: “Shine on Us”

Verse 1:

Lord let Your light,
light of Your face shine on us.
Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face shine on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let your light shine on us.

Verse 2:

Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us.

Verse 3:

Lord, let Your love
Love with no end come over us.
Lord, let Your love,
Love with no end, come over us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let your light shine on us.

COMMUNION SONG: “One Bread, One Body”

Chorus:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1:

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

Chorus

Verse 2:

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

Chorus

Verse 3:

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.

Chorus

COMMUNION SONG: “Eat this Bread”

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We have tasted your goodness, O God, in your gifts of word and sacrament. May our hearts burn within us, that we may proclaim your mighty acts and joyfully live as your chosen people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: 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 risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

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

BLESSING

P: With Mary and the disciples and all those who live in Christ,

All: let us rejoice that we have seen our Savior, who is not dead, but lives.

P: In the love of the Creator; in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: let us go forth to love and serve the world.

P: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "I'll Fly Away"

Verse 1:

Some glad morning when this life is o'er

I'll fly away

To a home on God's celestial shore

I'll fly away

Chorus:

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 2:

When the shadows of this life have grown
I'll fly away
Like a bird from prison bars has flown
I'll fly away

Chorus

Verse 3:

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end
I'll fly away

Chorus:

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away

DISMISSAL

L: Go in Easter peace and joy!

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



“The LORD is
my shepherd,
I shall not want.”

Psalm 23:1, NRSV

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