

**What good  
will it be for**

**someone to**

**gain the  
whole world,**

**yet forfeit**

**their soul?**

**Or what can anyone give  
in exchange for their soul?**

**MATTHEW 16:26, NIV**

**September 3, 2023**

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

September 3, 2023  
10 AM – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

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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.

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## **WELCOME TO THE STORY**

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*When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

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## **A Story that Invites Us**

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### **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: “Son of God, Eternal Savior” vs. 1,2



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.

## 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, and 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: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.

**All: Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Be Seated

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## The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: 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.**

R: A reading from Romans.

### READING: *Romans 12:9-21*

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality.

Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people. Do all you can to be at peace with everyone. Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "'Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back,' says our God." But there is more: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them drink. For in doing so, you will heap burning coals upon their heads." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: 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 Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.*

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

### **GOSPEL:** *Matthew 16:21-28*

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You’re setting your mind not on the things of God, but of mortals.”

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps. “If you



would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self?

“The Promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One’s reign.”

*P: The Gospel, the good news of God.*

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

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME** – Pastor Tim

Please Stand

**HYMN: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” vs. 1,2**



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:  
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:



na-ture’s won-der, Je-sus’ wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave’s shat-tered door,  
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f’ring up our-selves in praise;  
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.  
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.

## Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

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### A Story that Feeds Us

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#### 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.**

#### THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

#### OFFERTORY RESPONSE



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: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble.  
Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments.  
Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**All: receive 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: Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**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:*



PSALM 30:4

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.*

**All: Here is life abundant, a table of peace for all.**

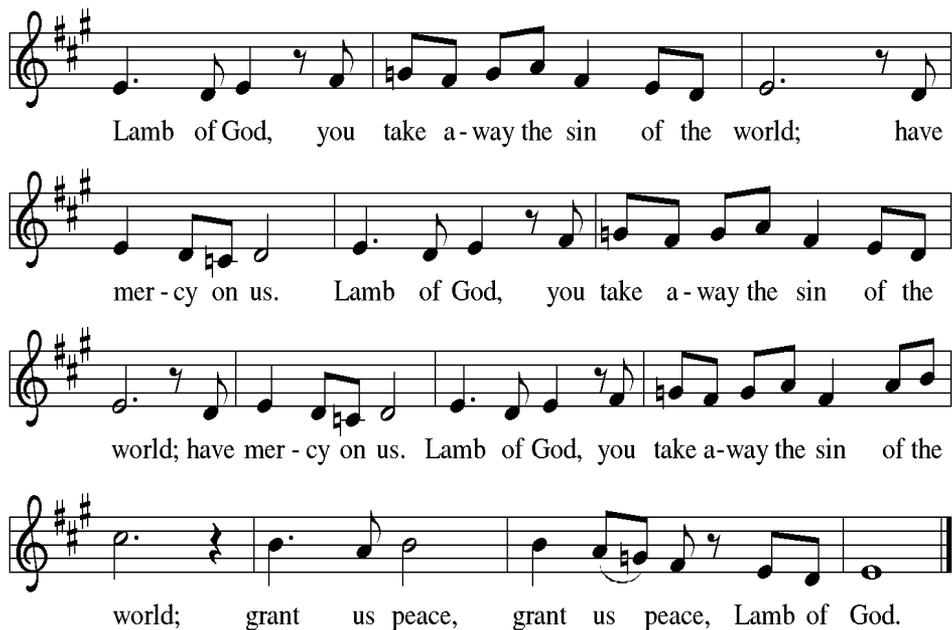
*P: May this peace be in us and among us,*

**All: a sign of hope for a world renewed.**

## Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to God's Table  
after the Lamb of God is sung.

### 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.

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.



# COMMUNION HYMN: "Let Streams of Living Justice"



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.



Let justice roll down  
like waters,  
and righteousness like  
an everflowing stream.

-Amos 5:24



## COMMUNION HYMN: "Bind Us Together"

*Refrain*



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that



can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,



bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er in love.



1 There is on - ly one God. There is  
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God. You are the



on - ly one King. There is on - ly one Bod - y;  
prom - ise di - vine. You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . . .



*Refrain*

that is why we can sing:  
you are the glo - rious new wine.

## 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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.

**All: In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Be Seated

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

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**A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve**

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## 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: “On Our Way Rejoicing” vs. 1



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
*Refrain*  
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,  
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE



# NEIGHBORLY LOVE

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