

Unless a grain of *wheat* falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it



bears much fruit.

John 12:24, NRSV

March 17, 2024

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

March 17, 2024
10:00 AM 5th Sunday in Lent
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's star, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

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.

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

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

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Creator and Sovereign, our world and our lives are often full of threat.

All: We return to you in this place today to be reminded that you do not abandon us to the hard realities of our lives.

L: You are the one who saves us.

All: You are the one who faithfully teaches us your life-giving ways.

L: You are the one who instills courage within us to stand up from the waters of our baptism and to walk your path.

All: Enter our hearts and lives for your powerful purposes, in the name of our baptized brother Jesus and the soaring Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you. If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you. If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

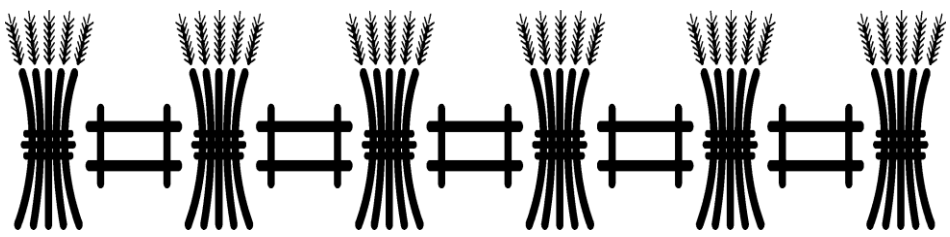
All: Holy God, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

P: Children of God, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God.

All: Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

HYMN: "Gather Us In" vs. 1,4

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.



GREETING

P: God of Abram and Sarai, you call to us across the span of time.

All: Open our minds, that we may discern your call.

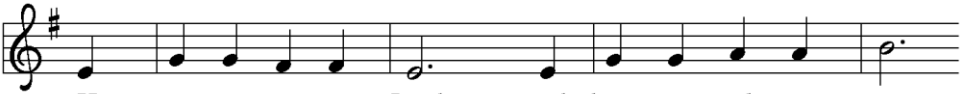
P: Open our hearts, that we may grow in your promise.

All: Grant us hope and trust to walk in your ways.

P: Raise us up to be children of your promise,

All: people of your covenant, and disciples who follow your every lead.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.

All: Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Seed that in Earth Is Dying"

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Speak to us now, O God, guide us by your Word and Spirit all along this Lenten journey.

All: Open our hearts and minds to understand and follow what you are saying to us in the message of the Scriptures.

R: Empower us in these forty days to live in your ways in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

R: The first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter thirty-one, beginning with the thirty-first verse.

FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: Here ends the reading.
Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: *The holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.*

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

GOSPEL: *John 12:20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME: “*Cross My Heart*” – Carmen Blair



Please Stand

HYMN: “*My Song Is Love Unknown*” vs. 1,2



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior’s love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!

Be Seated

HOMILY: Pastor Tim

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty
God has given us.

**All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's
work in this congregation and the world.**

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the food of
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them



life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our dai - ly
hum - bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for high - er



work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.
use we of - fer up as you com - mand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.

**All: Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in
Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.**



THE PRAYERS

L: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now 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: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Redeemer.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator, in whose image we are made.

All: To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, God of promise. From the beginning you have shown your people what could be;

All: in the promise to Sarah and Abraham,

P: in the words of Moses and Aaron,

All: in the dance and song of Miriam,

P: in the faithful relationship of Ruth and Naomi,

All: in the dreams of Joseph.

P: Through Jesus you once again showed us what could be. He healed the ill, to show the power of your healing love, and to free them from their brokenness. He ate with women and men who were rejected and despised by others, to show us the expansiveness of your welcoming love, and to free them from the pain of alienation.

At such a meal, on the night 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 in remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, and upon us, your gathered community.

All: Empower us, feed us by your body and blood to be your body in the world: to feed the hungry, to heal the broken and stop the torture, to welcome the hurt and marginalized, to be as Christ to one another.

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: This is God's Table. So if you came looking for justice,

All: we will rest in the comfort that all will be fed.

P: If you came seeking beauty,

All: we will marvel at the beauty of a community coming together.

P: If you came seeking a brush with the Divine,

All: we know that God is present in this meal.

P: Let your dry bones stop the search.

All: We are standing on holy ground.

P: This is God's Table.

All: All are invited.

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD



1 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.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Wine is red, grape juice is light yellow, water is clear.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN: "Come, Let Us Eat"



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

COMMUNION HYMN: "One Bread, One Body"

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Christ has shown himself among us, God has made a dwelling place in the midst of us.

All: This voice of peace has spoken and love has reached to our hearts.

P: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you unto life everlasting.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation.

All: Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: As you leave this place, may your mouth speak of God's goodness.

All: May our arms hold those in need.

P: May your feet walk toward justice.

All: May our heart trust its worth.

P: May your soul dance in God's grace.,

All: And may this be our rhythm—again and again and again,

P: until God's promised day. In the name of Love itself,

All: We go with courage, we go with heart, we go in peace. Amen.



SENDING HYMN: *“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”*



The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a bet-ter place to live.
The an-gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

DISMISSAL

L: You are marked with the cross of Christ.

All: We go forth to love and serve.

POSTLUDE



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