

*I am the vine, you are
the branches. Those who
abide in me and I in
them bear much fruit . . .*

John 15:5, NRSV

April 28, 2024

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

April 28, 2024
10 AM – 5th Sunday of Easter
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's vision, 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.

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

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: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" – Bell Choir

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God calls us to come together in love.

All: Love is from God.

L: We all are called to live in God's love.

All: Love is from God.

L: When we live in God's love, our love overflows.

All: Let us worship together in Love.



SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: With souls purified by God's redeeming love,

All: let us offer to one another genuine, mutual love, a love planted in the peace of Christ, a love that fills our hearts with peace and joy.

P: The peace of the risen Christ is with you.

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: Gracious God, we thank you that in every age you have made water a sign of your presence.

All: In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters, and they became the source of all creation.

P: In mercy and might you have freed us from death and You led your people Israel through the waters of the Red Sea to their new land of freedom and hope.

All: In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit for his ministry.

P: May this same Spirit bless this water today. May this be the water through which we experience your healing and wholeness; through which we hear your voice speaking in our hearts.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Renew us and make us whole.

P: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Speak into the hearts of all gathered today.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Fill us with desire for your justice and peace, your liberation and life, now and every day.

All: Amen.

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



OPENING HYMN: "Love Has Brought Us Here Together"

vs. 1,2



1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and



love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's
kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts



gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through-out our life - time,
first the oth - er's needs. Not quick-tem - pered or re - sent - ful,



love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters
prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in



can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame.
grace and mer - cy, nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er rude.

INVOCATION

P: Come, gather together, disciples, and meet Jesus,

All: who comes to us, risen and whole.

P: Come, gather together, disciples, and meet the Christ

All: who brings to us peace and new life!

P: Come, gather together, disciples, and meet the future:

All: the future calling us to be a resurrection people!

gathered together

LITANY

L: God of love and compassion,

All: we often fail to understand the truth of your love.

L: We are frequently confused and filled with doubt. Life can feel meaningless.

All: We wander down the pathways of life, longing to see our way more clearly.

L: Open our eyes this day, that we may see your way of love and grace.

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: that we may follow you with joy. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



All: Cre - a - ted for a life to - geth - er, we
With sun and moon and stars of hea - ven we



come a - live in you. Now, in your fel - low - ship you
name you as our light; In mor - ning star and pas - chal



birth us, and give us life a - new. To - day we
can - dle You make our dark - ness bright. In wind or



come to sing your prais - es; Our hearts made one in
calm, in storm or sun - shine the earth sings forth your



song to Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit in
praise; With trees and fields and flow - ing ri - ver we

whom we all be - long. We
owe you all our days. We

sing to the God of sun-rise, of kindled hearts and emp-ty
sing to our God who knows us in joy or sor-row, pain or

tomb. We sing to the God of sha-dows, of shat-tered
pleasure. We sing to our God now with us, Im-man-u-

dreams and bar-ren womb; We sing to our God of
el, our price-less treasure; We sing to our God of

1.
Love! With sun and

2.
Love! We sing to our God of Love!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

All: **Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Jesus, Name above All Names /
Beautiful Savior”*

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Risen Christ, may the words we speak and the stories we hear

All: invite us into a deeper relationship with you and with one another. Amen.

R: The first reading is from First John, chapter four, beginning with the seventh verse.

READING: *1 John 4:7-21*

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God’s love is brought to perfection in us.

The way we know that we remain in God and God in us is that we have been given the Spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world. When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten, God dwells in them and they in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them. Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear—because our relation to this world is just like Christ’s. There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love. We love because God first loved us. If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor, whom you have seen. If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

R: The Holy One is with us this day,

All: offering us God’s love and light.

R: The risen Christ is among us,

All: inviting us to share what we have seen and heard.

R: The Holy Spirit guides our way,

All: teaching us to take care of our neighbors,

R: and making sure that all are welcomed and loved.

All: Praise be to God!

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is written on three staves in 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4-measure rest, followed by the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff contains two phrases of the acclamation, each starting with a 4-measure rest. The lyrics are: "All: Al - le - lu - ia! 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!"

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

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *John 15:1-8*

“I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the risen Savior.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Florence Pidakala



Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

vs. 1,2



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

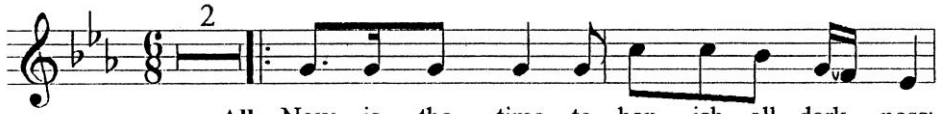
All: **Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand



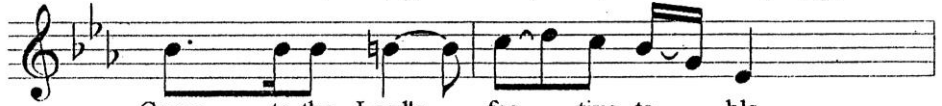
OFFERTORY RESPONSE



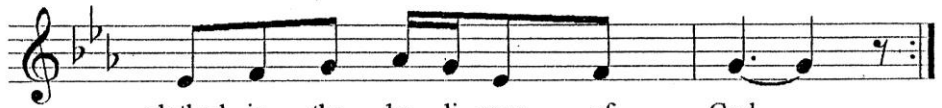
All: Now is the time to ban - ish all dark - ness;
Here we are made to shine in God's glo - ry.



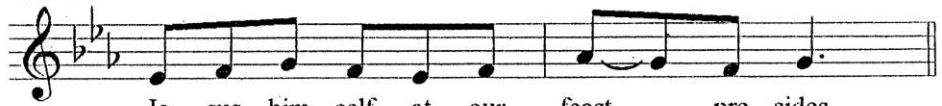
Christ is our way, our truth and light.



Come to the Lord's fes - tive ta - ble
Here we be - come a liv - ing of - fer - ing—



clothed in the ho - li - ness of God.
ho - ly com - mun - ion in Christ.



Je - sus him - self at our feast pre - sides.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Loving God, bless these gifts with love.

All: Transform lives with our ministries,

L: that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide
in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life.

All: Amen.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Savior.

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: *Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we walk with Jesus, but do not recognize him. Yet Jesus persists, opening our hearts to truth and love as we share table with him.*

As he gathers us close, Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, and breaks it, and we eat together: you, me, and Christ at the table. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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 for all people.

All: **It is during the meal that we recognize Christ, see the gift of God's love, and are transformed.**

P: *Only then can we truly say, "The Lord has risen!" for Christ is risen in our hearts. Friends, loved ones, this table is prepared by Christ for the transformation and redemption of the world.*

All: **At this table, we recognize Christ and God's love rises in our hearts. Come, let us break bread with the One who is present now.**



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 the food that opens our hearts to know the Risen Christ. This is the place where we are all welcome, whether we come with nagging doubts or with firm belief.

All: For here God meets us with a love that is everlasting.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward to communion after the Lamb of God is sung.



LAMB OF GOD

3
All: Oh Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, Have mer - cy on us. Oh
1.
2.
mer - cy on us. Oh grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a triplet of eighth notes followed by a quarter rest, then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'All: Oh Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'sin of the world, Have mer - cy on us. Oh'. It includes a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a repeat sign. The third staff starts with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and continues the melody with lyrics 'mer - cy on us. Oh grant us peace,'. The fourth staff concludes the piece with lyrics 'grant us peace, grant us peace.' and ends with a double bar line.

Holy Communion is open to all.

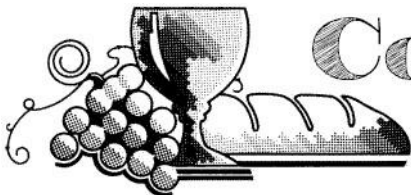
Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

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.



**Come to the
Feast**

COMMUNION HYMN: "You Are Holy" (sung three times)



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!




Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!



COMMUNION HYMN: "Let Us Break Bread Together"



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

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 Savior.

All: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.

All: Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. 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.



SENDING HYMN: "Let All Things Now Living" vs. 1



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in Easter peace and joy!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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