

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

September 1, 2024
10 AM – 15th Sunday after Pentecost
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.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

A Story that Invites Us

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

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please safely share the peace with one another.

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: From our busy lives, God calls us together to worship and to pray.

All: We are here, Holy One!

L: From different places, Christ calls us to gather, to love, and to live.

All: We are here, blessed Jesus!

L: From unexpected journeys, the Spirit calls us into unity to serve and to grow.

All: We are here, Holy Spirit! Come! Let us worship.

gathered together

OPENING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" vs. 1,2,4

Favorite Hymn of Otto Krusius



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

GREETING

P: God, we gather as people who are tired from our labors.
We work hard and sometimes wonder why.

All: We toil in the fields and are surprised that a bigger
crop is not yielded.

P: 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 our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.

All: Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Be Seated

ANTHEM – The Tongan Wesleyan Church Choir

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: God, teach us how to dance to the rhythm of your wisdom;

All: show us how to laugh

R: so that we can live for the praise of your glory in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

R: The first reading is from the book of James, chapter one, beginning with the seventeenth verse.

FIRST READING: *James 1:17-27*

Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Creator of the heavenly luminaries, who cannot change and is never in shadow. God willingly gave birth to us with a word spoken in truth, so that we may be, as it were, the firstfruits of God's creatures.

Remember this, my dear sisters and brothers: be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to anger; for God's justice is never served by our anger. So do away with all your filth and the last vestiges of wickedness in you. Humbly welcome the word which has been planted in you, because it has power to save you.

But act on this word—because if all you do is listen to it, you’re deceiving yourselves. Those who listen to God’s word but don’t put it into practice are like those who look into mirrors at their own faces; they look at themselves, then go off and promptly forget what they looked like. But those who look steadily at the perfect law of freedom and make it their habit—not listening and then forgetting, but actively putting it into practice—will be blessed in all that they do.

If those who don’t control their tongues imagine that they are devout, they’re deceiving themselves and their worship is pointless. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of our Abba God, is this: coming to the aid of widows and orphans when they are in need, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by this world.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: This is the living Word of God, lifted before the people of God.

All: We give thanks for God’s unfailing Word. 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 Mark, the seventh chapter.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

The Pharisees and some of the religious scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They had noticed that some of the disciples were eating with unclean hands—that is, without ritually washing them. For the Pharisees, and Jewish people in general, follow the tradition of their ancestors and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow. Moreover, they never eat anything from the market without first sprinkling it. There are many other traditions which have been handed down to them, such as the washing of cups and pots and dishes.

So these Pharisees and religious scholars asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of our ancestors, but eat their food with unclean hands?”

Jesus answered, “How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless; the doctrines they teach are only human precepts.’ You disregard God’s commandments and cling to human traditions.”

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters us from the outside makes us impure; it is what comes out of us that makes us impure.

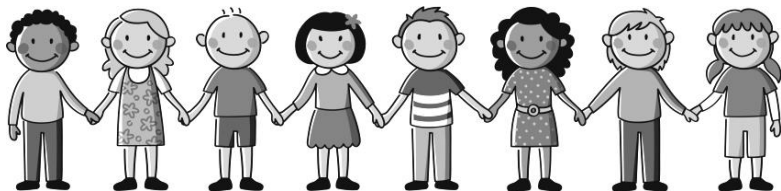
For it is from within—from our hearts—that evil intentions emerge: promiscuity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, obscenity, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evils come from within and make us impure.”

P: The Gospel, the good news of God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME – Karen Narveson



Please Stand

HYMN: “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” vs. 1,2,4 Favorite Hymn of Rick Koski



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Karen Narveson

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: God's boundless generosity transcends the limits of this world and nudges us to fill our land with blessing.

All: Through our energy, time, talents, and treasures, we usher God's peace into a world filled with storms and obstacles.

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.

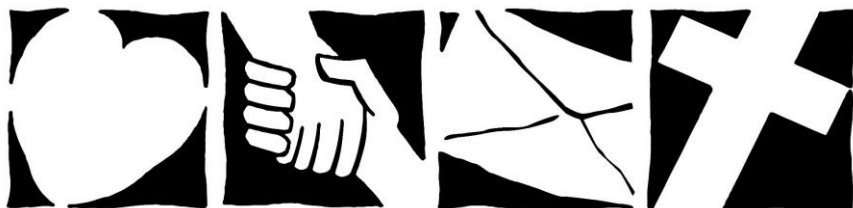


We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of mercy, we bring these gifts to you in thankfulness for all that you have done for us.

All: May our gratitude turn into acts of mercy and justice, and may these gifts help our neighbors both near and far. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

L: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: Our Creator is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Creator.

L: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: Lifegiving God, your word speaks in the void, calling into being things that are not, inviting us to share your work of creation.

All: We thank you for the ages long; of gathering stars and cooling earth, of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

P: We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world; for their lives so different from our own

All: and the richness they reveal.

P: We thank you for our Redeemer, formed from Mary's flesh and nurtured by her faith; he walked the growing earth and proclaimed a fearless kingdom of bird and lily,

All: child and stranger, the beggar and the blind.

P: On the cross, he joined the labor of all creation's yearning; in his rising, he hallowed all flesh to bear the glory of God;

All: he gives the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope.

P: Therefore, with all that has life through him; with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation, we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:



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: Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples in stories and parables,

All: that the realm of God is all around us when we look with the eyes of faith.

P: On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and 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 supper was over, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, 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 and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ to a world that yearns to be made new.

All: We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. 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.

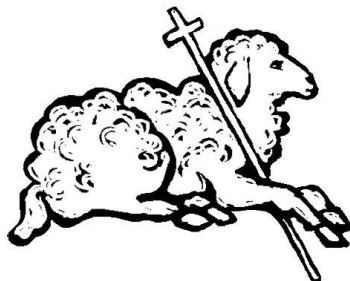
FRACTION RITE

P: Everyone who hungers, come to the table.

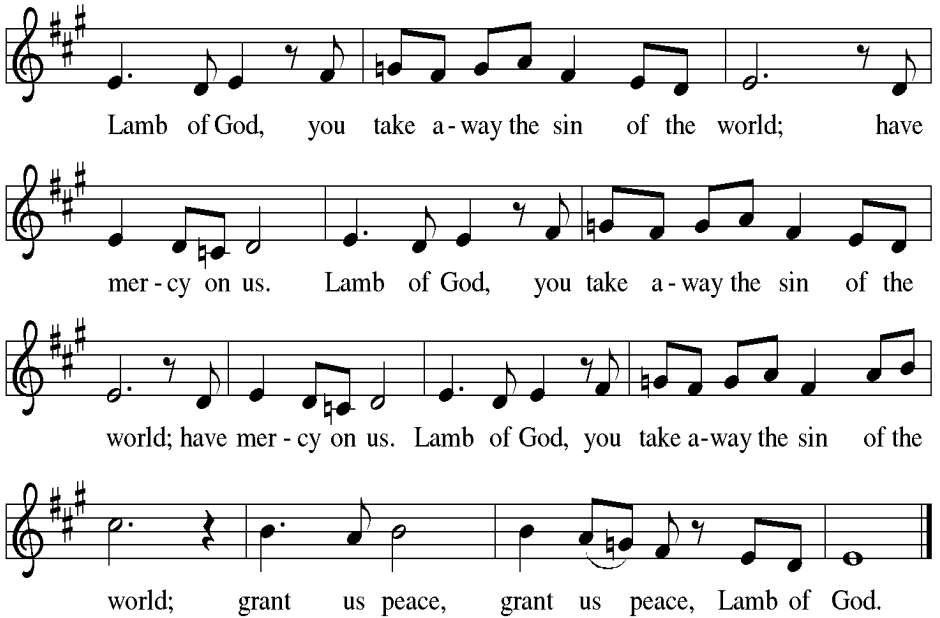
All: We will eat what is good, that we may live.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord'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.

DISTRIBUTION

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.



COMMUNION HYMN: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"

Favorite Hymn of Linda Headrick



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- 5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

I KNOW THAT MY

Redeemer

LIVES

J O B 1 9 : 2 5

COMMUNION HYMN: “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

Favorite Hymn of Christina Blevins



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

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: 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

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMISSIONING

P: With hearts renewed and spirits filled to overflowing with the love of God, our Creator, go from this place to follow Jesus, who taught us how to love.

All: We will listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

P: Hear the word, do the word, and live the word.

All: We go in peace. Amen.



SENDING HYMN: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” vs. 1,2

Favorite Hymn of Ellen Di Paola



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Scripture Readings: Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation - Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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