



RALLY DAY

September 8, 2024

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

September 8, 2024 – Rally Day
10 AM, 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of HTLC
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.

Jesus seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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

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: “*Shine, Jesus, Shine*”

Favorite Hymn of Parker Shaw and Cindy Franco

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word,
Lord, and let there be light!

Verse 1:

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me:

Chorus

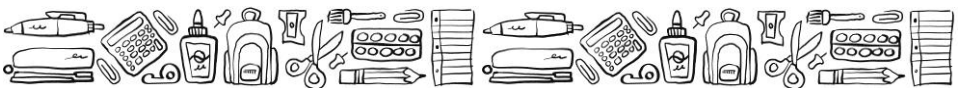
Verse 2:

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me:

Chorus

WELCOME

Please Stand



SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: As forgiven and reconciled children of Christ, let's share signs of reconciliation, love, and welcome with one another. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Source of all life,

All: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world.

All: Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are part of the Church universal – faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age and ability, gathered to love and serve God.

All: We are an Open and Affirming church.

L: Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!

All: There is a place in God’s heart, there is a place at Christ’s table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people.

L: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

All: May our hearts be open to Christ’s leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

GATHER
with us

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Big House”

Favorite Hymn of Krista Lanzarotta

Verse 1:

I don’t know where you lay your head,

Or where you call your home

I don’t know where you eat your meals or
where you talk on the phone

I don’t know if you have cook, a butler, or a maid

I don’t know if you’ve got a yard with a hammock in the shade

Verse 2:

I don’t know if you got some shelter, say a place to hide

I don’t know if you live with friends in whom you can confide

I don’t know if you got a fam’ly say a mom or dad

I don’t know if you feel love at all but I bet you wish you had

Chorus:

Come and go with me to my Father's house
Come and go with me to my Father's house
It's a big, big house with lots and lots of room
A big, big table with lots and lots of food
A big, big yard where we can play football
A big, big house...it's my Father's house

Verse 3:

All I know is a big ol' house with room for ev'ry one
All I know is a-lots of land where we can play and run
All I know is that you need love and I've got a family
All I know is you're still alone, so why not come along with me?

Chorus (clap)

Repeat Chorus

GREETING

*P: We place our trust in you, O God, for your love and
faithfulness are steadfast and true.*

**All: Breathe your Holy Spirit into our worship and your
very presence into our lives,**

P: that our love and faithfulness may be steadfast and true.

All: Amen.

RALLY DAY LITANY

**L: Loving God, we thank you for all the blessings of the
summer that is past,**

**All: and we pray for your help for the new term of
Christian Education that is about to begin.**

L: Let it be a year of shared learning, O God!

All: Deepen the knowledge of your Word among us.

**L: Accept our commitment to the strengthening of Christian
education,**

All: and keep us faithful in fulfilling it.

L: Make it a year of shared worship, O God!

All: Sharpen our skill in the art of common prayer.

L: Let our music sound forth with power. Let our choirs and bands sing joyously of your love.

All: Let instruments of all types add their sounds of glad praise.

L: Let it be a year of shared witness, O God!

All: Help us to strive together for a deeper faith.

L: And give us courage, tact and a keen sense of timing

All: for sharing our faith with friends.

L: Make it a year of shared concern, O God!

All: Help us, as inhabitants of this wonderful, fragile planet, to be better stewards of its resources.

L: Compel us, to secure food and justice for the poor.

All: Empower us, as objects of your reconciling love, to work in the ministry of reconciliation.

L: O God, you have been our help in ages past:

All: You alone are our hope for years to come.

L: Be our help still, for we rest our hope in you,

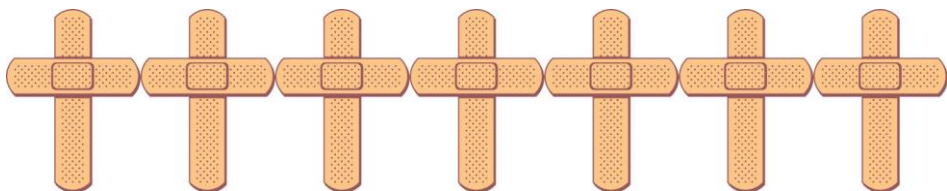
All: through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.

All: Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our Healer and Redeemer. Amen.

Be Seated



WE LISTEN AND THINK

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Abiding Spirit, may our hearts be opened to the mystery of your words,

All: that the Creator of life may be made known to all.

R: A reading from Isaiah, chapter thirty-five, beginning with the fourth verse.

READING: *Isaiah 35:4-7a*

Say to all those of faint heart:

“Take courage! Do not be afraid!

Look, Yahweh is coming, vindication is coming,
the recompense of God—

God is coming to save you!”

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
the ears of the deaf will be unsealed.

Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer
and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy.

Waters will break forth in the wilderness,
and there will be streams in the desert.

The scorched earth will become a lake;
the parched land, springs of water.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.

R: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the
wellspring of our salvation.

All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.

R: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.

Please Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

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!

P: *The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.*

All: Glory to You, O God.

GOSPEL: *Mark 7:24-37*

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the territory of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a certain house and wanted no one to recognize him, but he could not pass unrecognized.

A woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She approached Jesus and fell at his feet. The woman, who was Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, begged Jesus to expel the demon from her daughter.

He told her, “Let the children of the household satisfy themselves at table first. It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She replied, “Yes, Rabbi, but even the dogs under the table eat the family’s scraps.”

Then Jesus said to her, “For saying this, you may go home happy; the demon has left your daughter.” When she got home, she found her daughter in bed and the demon gone.

Jesus left the region of Tyre and returned by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Ten Cities.

Some people brought an individual who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and begged Jesus to lay hands on that

person. Jesus took the afflicted one aside, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the deaf ears and, spitting, touched the mute tongue with his saliva. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and, with a deep sigh, said, “Ephphatha!”—that is, “Be opened!” At once the deaf ears were opened and the impediment cured; the one who had been healed began to speak plainly.

Then Jesus warned them not to tell anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. Their amazement went beyond all bounds: “He has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!”

P: The Gospel of the Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Pastor Tim

Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases



Presentation of Bibles



Installation of Christian Educators



Please Stand

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: "I'll Fly Away"

Favorite Hymn of Terri MacFarlane

Verse 1:

Some glad morning
When this life is o're
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

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

Be Seated

REFLECTION – Pastor Tim

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Children of God, we have received much from God:
grace, mercy, abundance, the love of Christ, and the gift
of life itself.

**All: In our worship, we praise God and give God thanks
for these gifts. In gratitude for God's generosity, let
us share God's abundance with one another.**

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: "Where I Belong"

Favorite Hymn of Marta Wicke

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

Repeat Chorus

Ending:

Where I belong, where I belong

Where I belong, where I belong

Please Stand

OFFERTORY

Refrain

All: As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Loving God, receive these gifts of our hands and with them our lives and the life of your church.

All: Transform us in service to you and all you have made, and draw us always near to you through Jesus Christ, who leads us to new life. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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. Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. 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: 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace! With gratitude, we recall how you formed us from the very earth, made covenant with us from the beginning of time, and call us again and again to be your people.

All: In your amazing love, you came as one of us in the form of Jesus the Christ, showing us the way of unconditional love and the path of self-giving service.

P: Even as he faced death on a cross, Jesus washed the feet of both enemies and friends, gave thanks and rejoiced in a time of great sorrow, broke bread and shared the cup of salvation with all, showing us the path of servanthood and love.

And so we remember Jesus' words of self-giving love as he broke bread and poured wine, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Take, drink. This is my life poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." Called to remember these acts whenever we eat and drink, we come now to the table in remembrance of these gifts as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: God of love, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might be servants of your love. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that they might be for us your very presence.

All: Flow through us with your love and grace, that we might be your loving presence for others, extending kindness to strangers, forgiveness to adversaries, and mutual love to all.

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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

All: All are welcome.

Be Seated



THE LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

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 SONG: “Hallelujah” vs. 2–5
Favorite Hymn of Marielle Miedema

Verse 2:

When children are tucked in at night,
parents dream of peace and light,
of hope and love and freedom, and a future.
In the midst of war and poverty,
The broken dreams and the mystery,
The Spirit comes and breathes the Hallelujah

Chorus:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 3:

Alone and broken on the cross,
Your followers thinking all was lost,
The scattered aimless, like they never knew ya,
We know that we are broken too,
Denying that we follow you, it's a cold
And it's a broken hallelujah

Chorus

Verse 4:

Peace to the broken hearted ones,
To the captives and the prisoners, in our shame,
Our doubt, our fears God's calling to ya,
Oh Love it has it's victory march,
Proclaiming peace to those far off
And with grateful hearts we raise the hallelujah

Chorus

Verse 5:

Praise the Holy Trinity,
The Lamb has come we are set free
And joyfully we sing the hallelujah.

To the Father, Son and Holy Dove,
We join our hands under God's Love
And we raise our voices singing Hallelujah

Chorus

COMMUNION SONG: "Stay Here"

Stay here and keep watch with me
The hour has come
Stay here and keep watch with me
Watch and pray

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: O God, you are Hospitality. You are Welcome. You are the Invitation, the Table, the Feast. By your Spirit may we learn to receive and offer grace, to share from the sustenance of our lives and not simply its crumbs.

All: Embolden us as we serve as the voice of those who continue to ask the church for justice and bread. In Christ we pray. 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 Savior. Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WE CARRY GOD'S CARING LOVE TO THE WORLD

COMMISSIONING

*P: Children of God, both our work and our rest are in God.
Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in
gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and
evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?*

All: I will, and I ask God to help me.

*P: Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us
your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

**All: Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve
in Christ's name.**

P: Give us courage, patience, and vision;

**All: and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of
witness to the world and of service to others; through
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "Every Move I Make"

Favorite Hymn of Cassie Di Paola and Chris Wicke

Every move I make I make in You
You make me move Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You

Every step I take I take in You
You are my way Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You

La la la la la la
La la la la la la
La la la la la la
La la la la la la

Waves of mercy waves of grace
Everywhere I look I see Your face
Your love has captured me
Oh my God this love how can it be

Repeat La las

Every move I make
I make in You
You make me move Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You

Every step I take I take in You
You are my way Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You

Waves of mercy waves of grace
Everywhere I look I see Your face
Your love has captured me
Oh my God this love how can it be

Repeat La las

Repeat La las (Clap)

Repeat La las

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Welcome all!

All: **We will. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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

“Now the Feast and Celebration” musical setting by Marty Haugen.
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