

A person in a blue shirt and dark shorts stands on a rocky peak, looking out over a landscape with trees and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the vastness of the environment.

"Anyone who wants to be

FIRST must be the very
LAST,

and the servant of all."

MARK 9:35, NIV

September 22, 2024

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

September 22, 2024
10 AM, 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holyltrinityfremont.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.

In our Gospel, the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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: *“Jesus, Name above All Names”* – Bell Choir

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: In a spirit of humility, recognize the ways we are called to grow with God and neighbor. May we greet one another as God's children with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please safely share the peace with each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is our refuge and stronghold.

All: We will place our trust in God.

L: God's faithful love protects us.

All: We will not be afraid.

L: When times are troubling,

All: God will be with us.

L: When we cry out,

All: God will answer us.

L: Through the years of our lives,

All: God is with us.

L: We look to the future with hope,

All: for God is our solid foundation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Seek Christ and the strength of God's love,

All: for this love brings us mercy and grace.

P: Sustainer God, you nourish us in every way. Forgive us when we reject your love and care. Open our eyes when we neglect your gifts and ignore your presence.

All: Draw close to us, that we may recognize your abiding presence and guiding love.

P: Reclaim us as your own, that we might live for Christ and answer his call of discipleship.

All: In the name of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

P: The living water of Christ rushes into our lives, bringing mercy and grace.

All: In this living water, we are washed clean and made whole; we are forgiven and reclaimed by God! Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "God Is Here!" vs. 1,3



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.



GREETING

P: Some days we don't understand what Jesus is saying to us, and we are afraid to ask.

All: That is when it is helpful to have the gift of a faith community.

P: It can be a place where we can bring our honest questions, our doubts, our worries, and our hopes.

All: Where we can find support, understanding, and other people who are also figuring things out.

P: Come and join us. We haven't figured everything out, but we are seeking to do so together.

All: There is room for all here.

LITANY

L: God of unsearchable mystery and light,

All: your weakness is greater than our strength,

L: your foolishness brings all our cleverness to naught,

All: your gentleness confounds the power we would claim.

L: You call first to be last and last to be first,

All: servant to be leader, and ruler to be underling of all.

L: Pour into our hearts the wisdom of your Word and Spirit,

All: that we may know your purpose and live to your glory. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



All: Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
 freed and u-nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*
Refrain
 Now the feast and cel-e-bra-tion, all of cre-a-tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo-ry for-ev-er-more!
 2 Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon-or and
 glo-ry to Christ for-ev-er. *Refrain*
Refrain
 Now the feast and cel-e-bra-tion, all of cre-a-tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo-ry for-ev-er-more!
 3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Now the feast and celebra-tion, all of cre-a-tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo-ry for-ev-er-more!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children.

All: **Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Peace Like a River”*

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 Jeremiah, chapter eleven, beginning with the eighteenth verse.

READING: *Jeremiah 11:18-20*

Then Yahweh warned me, and I knew. God opened my eyes to their deeds. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not realize they plotted against me, saying, “Let us destroy the tree and its fruit. Let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.” But you, Yahweh Omnipotent, who judge justly and test the heart and mind, let me witness your vengeance upon them, for my cause is committed to you.

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 ninth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Creator.

GOSPEL: *Mark 9:30-37*

They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching the disciples along these lines: “The Promised One is going to be delivered into the hands of others and will be put to death, but three days later this One will rise again.” Though they failed to understand these words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned home to Capernaum. Once they were inside the house, Jesus began to ask them, “What were you discussing on the way home?” At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who among them was the most important. So Jesus sat down and called the Twelve over and said, “If any of you wants to be first, you must be the last one of all and at the service of all.”

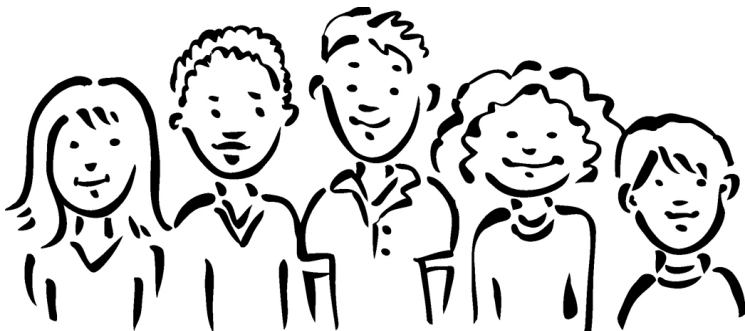
Then Jesus brought a little child into their midst and, putting his arm around the child, said to them, “Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me.”

P: The Gospel of the Risen Savior.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Pastor Tim



Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*” vs. 1-3



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please Stand

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: The righteousness of God sets aside bias and jealousy as we welcome the opportunity to care for God's children.


All: Listen to the winds of hope. Look for the light of wisdom. May this light remain steadfast as we seek ways to share our treasures, talents, and time.

THANKFUL OFFERING

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: Beloved One, with the work of our hands, we create pathways of care.

All: **With open hearts, we welcome your abundant wisdom which invites us to share.**

L: May our gifts transform our communities

All: **into places of humility and generosity. 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. Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all, 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: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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: In the night in which 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 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 for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Savior. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

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: Come to the table and taste God's mercy and grace.
Come to the table and drink Christ's living water.*

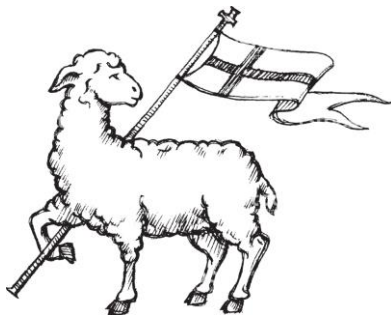
All: We come to the table to share in a meal overflowing with God's love.

P: Come, children of God,

All: for all are welcome here!

Be Seated

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



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 HYMN: "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

COMMUNION HYMN: "Loving Spirit"



1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst.

All: By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our Messiah. Amen.

POST COMMUNION THANKS



All: Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -
mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.
From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to you for
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us.
Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WE CARRY GOD'S CARING LOVE TO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

P: Go forth with care and compassion. Go forth to serve and to love.

All: We go forth as children of God!

SENDING HYMN: "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" vs. 1,2



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

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.

“Now the Feast and Celebration” Musical setting by Marty Haugen
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