



“He who
is mightier
than I

is coming

He will baptize you

with the Holy Spirit
and fire.”

Luke 3:16, ESV

January 12, 2025

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

January 12, 2025
9:30 AM Service – Baptism of Our Lord
Ministers: The People of HTLC
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 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

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

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: “*Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*”

Chorus:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Verse 1:

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Chorus

Verse 1

Final Chorus:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come...Come...Come
Just as you are come...Come

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Peace is a gift of God's love.

All: Let God bless us and give us strength, as we share signs of this peace!

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please share the peace with each other.

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come and see, for miracles are all around us... burning bushes, the light of the world, the calling of God.

All: God calls us to follow Christ and be a light to the nations.

L: We are servants and friends, reflections of God, showing Christ's love to the world.

All: Christ invites us to heed God's calling in our lives.

L: Gathered as one, honored and called, we are strengthened by God, the redeeming One.

All: We will follow where Christ leads and be a light to the nations.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

All: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah, Naamah, and their family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

All: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Redeemer in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

GREETING

P: Arise, shine, for Christ's light has come! The glory of our Creator has arisen upon us, and Christ's mercy has restored us with forgiveness and grace.

All: Arise, shine, for Christ's light is shining upon us now!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "My Savior Lives"

Verse 1:

Our God who reigns forever
And all the world
Will know His name
Ev'ryone together
Sing the song of the redeemed

Chorus:

I know that my Redeemer lived
And now I stand on what he did
My Savior, my Savior lives
Ev'ryday a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior, my Savior lives

Verse 2:

The King has come from heaven
And darkness trembles at His name
Victory forever is the song of the redeemed

Chorus:

I know that my Redeemer lived
And now I stand on what he did
My Savior, my Savior lives
Ev'ryday a brand new chance to say
Jesus You are the only way
My Savior, my Savior lives

My Savior lives, My Savior lives
My Savior lives
My Savior lives, My Savior lives
My Savior lives

Chorus

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Living Redeemer Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

All: And also with you.

LITANY

L: We may be thirsty and parched, like an un-watered garden, so we come into God's presence:

All: The Divine One is a spring of water!

L: We may be weary from worry and work, so we come into God's presence:

All: The Holy One offers us Sabbath rest!

L: We may be lost or confused, so we come into God's presence:

All: The Wise One offers us welcome and guidance!

L: We may be bent over with struggle or pain, so we come into God's presence:

All: The Healing One empowers us to stand strong!

L: O God of all goodness, you welcome us, forgive us and heal us.

All: You seek us out from places where we have hidden from you.

L: You crown us with steadfast love and mercy.

All: Reveal yourself to us in this moment.

L: Let us know your presence so that we may bless you:

All: Bless you, O God! Bless your holy name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son.

All: Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Listen, the voice of God is calling.

All: Speak, Yahweh, for your servants are listening.

R: The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter forty-three, beginning with the first verse.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

R: Here ends the reading.
The second reading is from Acts, chapter eight,
beginning with the fourteenth verse.

SECOND READING: *Acts 8:14-17*

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: God calls us this day: by touching our minds with wisdom and truth,

All: by healing our hearts with love and joy,

R: by blessing our bodies with vitality and strength,

All: by reviving our souls with fullness of grace.

R: With every fiber of your being, offer your reply:

All: "Here I am, for you called me."

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Savior.

GOSPEL: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of our Messiah.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Pastor Tim

Please Stand

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: “*Thy Word*”

Chorus:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Chorus

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

Chorus

And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As we gaze on the lights of the Epiphany season, may we remember the Light that draws near.

All: Like those wise travelers from the East, let us bring gifts and treasures to honor Christ, the Light of the World.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son

(repeat)

And now let the weak say “I am strong”

Let the poor say “I am rich”

Because of what the Lord has done for us

(repeat)

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say “I am strong”

Let the poor say “I am rich”

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks

Please Stand



OFFERING PRAYER

L: Glorious God, bring glory to these gifts and to the offering we share with you and your church.

All: Bring the light of your justice and righteousness to the dark corners of our world.

L: Bring the glory of your love and compassion to heal our broken communities.

All: Bring the hope of generosity and gratitude to places in need of transformation. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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.

THE EUCHARIST

P: We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which replaced chaos with life-giving light.

All: A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small.

P: And so you spoke the Word. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth. The angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:

All: Holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the One who was born that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.

P: Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: 'Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Amen.

P: Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

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: Follow the star to the table of grace.

All: Here we find gifts beyond price.

P: Follow the star to the table of blessing.

All: Here we find strength for the journey.

P: Follow the star to the table of peace.

All: Here we find rest and refreshment.

P: Follow the star to the table of Christ.

All: Here we find light and love.

Be Seated

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 walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (yellow), or water (clear, center) from the assistant's tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls. You may walk behind the Praise Band.



COMMUNION SONG: *“One Bread, One Body”*

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1:

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

Refrain

Verse 2:

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.

Refrain

COMMUNION SONG: *“For Those Tears I Died”*

Verse 1:

You said You'd come
And share all my sorrows
You said You'd be there
For all my tomorrows
I came so close to sending You away
But just like You promised
You came there to stay
I just had to pray

Chorus:

And Jesus said
Come to the water
Stand by My side
I know you are thirsty
You won't be denied
I felt ev'ry tear drop
When in darkness you cried
And I strove to remind you
That for those tears I died

Verse 2:

Your goodness so great
I can't understand
And dear Lord I know
That all this was planned
I know You're here now
And always will be
Your love loosed my chains
And in You I'm free
But Jesus why me

Chorus

Verse 3:

Jesus I give You
My heart and my soul
I know that without God
I'd never be whole
Savior You opened
All the right doors
And I thank You and praise You
From earth's humble shores
Take me I'm Yours

Chorus

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

All: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day.

All: As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: As God has called us to worship, God now sends us to serve.

All: We will listen to the Spirit's call, for God sends us forth as light to the world.

P: Help others come and see for themselves that Christ is the light of the world.

All: We go invite others to see the light and love that God shines into our world.

CLOSING SONG: *“Love the Lord”*

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength

(Repeat)

With all your heart
With all your soul
With all your mind
With all your strength

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,
And with all your strength

I will serve the Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

(Repeat)

With all my heart
With all my soul
With all my mind
With all my strength

I will serve the Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

I will love you
I will praise you
I will serve you
I will trust you, Lo-or-ord

With all my heart
With all my soul
With all my mind
With all my strength
(Repeat)

I will love you Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind,
And with all my strength
(Repeat 2x more)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be the light of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

