



“But I say to you that listen,

Love

your enemies,

do good

to those who hate you,

bless

those who curse you,

pray

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

February 23, 2025

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

February 23, 2025
9:30 AM Service – Epiphany 7
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
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.

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

GATHERING

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 share the peace with each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God's faithful love welcomes us here.

All: Thank God for this glorious gift!

L: God's faithful love redeems our lives.

All: Thank God for our many blessings!

L: God's faithful love is ours to share.

All: We will offer this gift to God's world.

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.

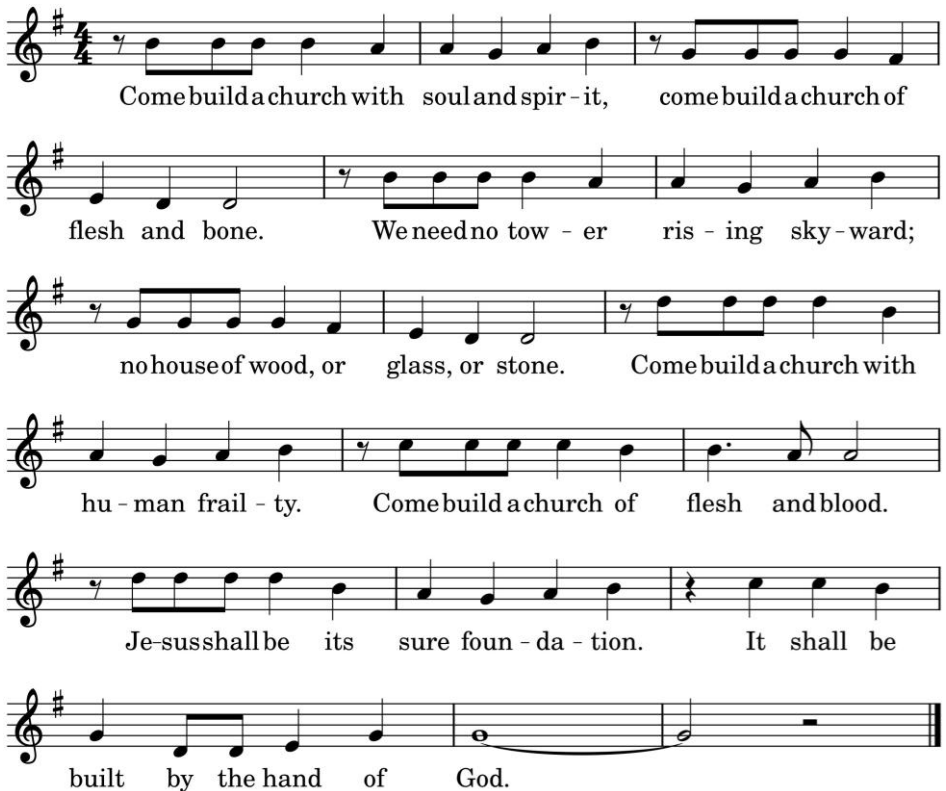
P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Redeemer in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Come Build a Church"

Intro – Choir

Refrain – All:



Come build a church with soul and spir - it, come build a church of
flesh and bone. We need no tow - er ris - ing sky - ward;
no house of wood, or glass, or stone. Come build a church with
hu - man frail - ty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Je - sus shall be its sure foun - da - tion. It shall be
built by the hand of God.

Verse 1 & 2 – Choir

Refrain – All

Verse 3 – Choir

Refrain – All

Ending – Choir

GREETING

P: Faithful God, we come to you from many walks of life.

All: Some of us come after wandering off.

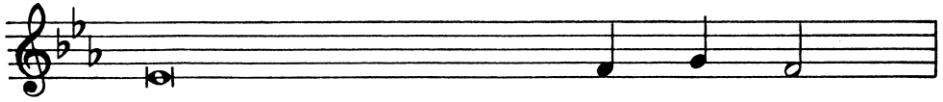
P: Others come sensing that you are as close as their very breath.

All: From our many journeys, welcome us with your love.

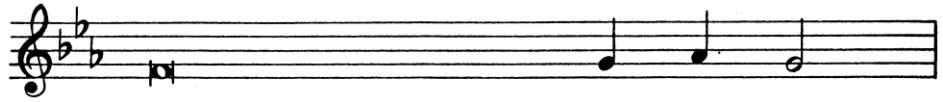
P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might sense your presence in our lives.

All: In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.

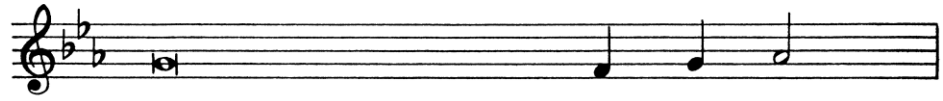
SERVICE OF LIGHT



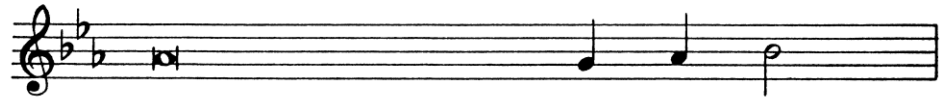
L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



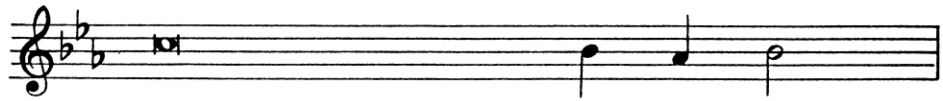
All: the light no darkness can o - ver - come;



L: Abide with us, for it is morning;



All: This new day is your cre - ation;



L: Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

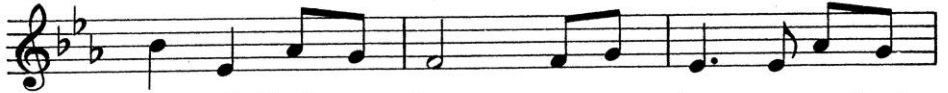


All: and shine within your people here. —

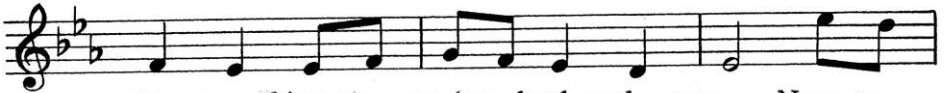
HYMN OF MORNING PRAISE



All: 1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and



sto - ry shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that



we to - ge - ther wor - ship, we shall raise our songs to
fills the day with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Jesus the Christ, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope.

All: **Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

ANTHEM: “*Hope Abides*” – Bell Choir

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

R: Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs.

All: You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it?

R: Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before.

All: Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today.

R: We know you are speaking,

All: so we are listening.

R: The first reading is from Genesis, chapter forty-five, beginning with the third verse.

READING: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all

his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

R: Word of God, word of light.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

ALLELUIA VERSE

All: My soul pro - claims your
great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
you, You have looked with love on your
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Luke 6:27-38*

“To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don’t demand it back.

“Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You’ll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

“Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Pardon, and you’ll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you’ll be given back.”

P: The Gospel of our Messiah.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Pastor Tim

Please Stand

HYMN: “*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*” vs. 1,3,4



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

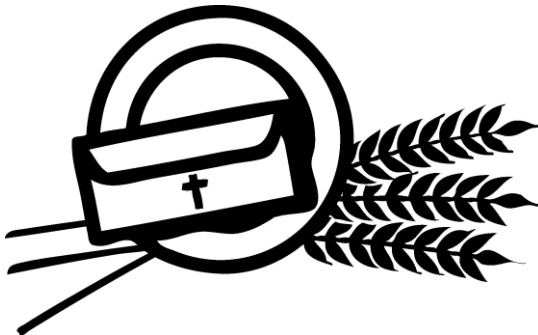
MEAL

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: God has satisfied the hunger of both our bodies and our souls.

All: **Let us share our gifts with all God’s creation, that weeping may turn to laughter, and struggle may turn to joy.**


OFFERING



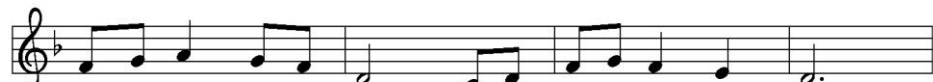
Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One



O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my

All or Group Two



O God, I call to you, come to me



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like



now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an



up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my



of - fer - ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing
 watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
 love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
 in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of
 of - fer - ing to you. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.
 God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you, the
Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Merciful God, you bless us beyond measure or belief.

All: May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world.

L: May these gifts nourish all who have need.

All: Amen.

THE PRAYERS 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.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. 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: 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: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God!

L: Celebrate God's love!

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

THE EUCHARIST

P: We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace! We celebrate the creative presence that called forth this glorious earth and the heavens above.

All: We praise and glorify you for creating us in your very image.

P: We celebrate the long history you traveled with us, as you called us to be your light and love for the world, and as you claimed us as your own.

All: We are humbled and grateful for the many times you guided us along the way—

P: reclaiming us in our grumbling,

All: redirecting us in our wandering,

P: comforting us in our loneliness,

All: and steadfastly loving us with your grace.

P: From ancient days and ancient voices, you have shown us the path of love, justice and righteousness.

All: In the fullness of time, you came to us in the presence of Jesus, the Christ, showing us the way of strength and trust,

P: calling us to discipleship,

All: and inviting us to walk the path of love.

P: Even when faced with impending death, Christ gave thanks and blessed the fruit of your good earth, offering not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation.

We remember his prophetic words: “Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Take, drink. This is my life poured out for you and for many.”

As we walk this journey of life, we remember these gifts, as 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, that we might be disciples of your love and grace.

All: Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that your life and love might flow through us.

P: Guide us in love by your Spirit, that we might be one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

All: until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

P: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever more.

All: 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.

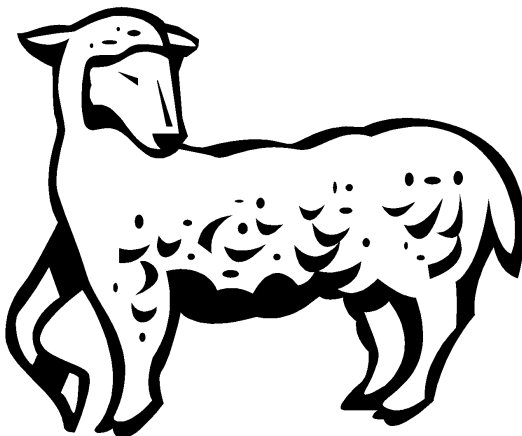
FRACTION RITE

P: The joy of God is our strength.

All: All are welcomed at this meal of gladness.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward to communion 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.

Holy Communion is open to all.

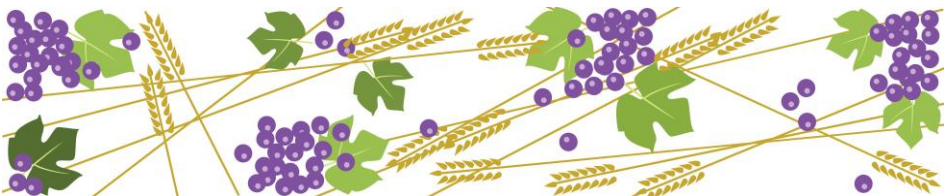
Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

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: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.



Refrain
"Come home, come home! You who are wea - ry, come home."




Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"



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: 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: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation.

All: Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

FINAL BLESSING



L: Let us bless our God: All: praise and thanks to you.



L: May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days.

All: A - men.

SENDING HYMN: “We All Are One in Mission” vs. 1,2

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.

SENDING

L: Go into the world, following the Living God—

All: **this day and all days. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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