

**Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often have I
desired to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her
wings, and you were not willing!**

Luke 13:34, NRSV

March 16, 2025

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

March 16, 2025
9:30 AM 2nd Sunday in Lent
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 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.

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

PRELUDE: “*Abide with Me*” – HTLC Bell Choir

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,

All: then you are in the right place.

L: If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,

All: then you are in the right place.

L: If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,

All: then you are in the right place.

L: God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

All: So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.

L: With God's help, may it be so.

All: Let us worship our all-loving God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In Christ our sins are forgiven. We have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN: "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" vs. 1,2



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:



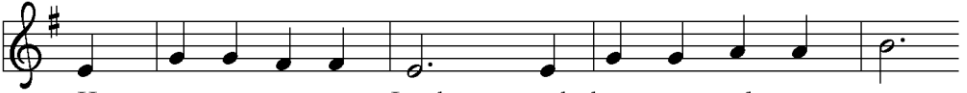
far so off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.

GREETING

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.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

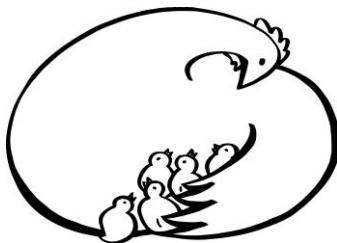
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world.

All: **Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

ANTHEM: “*Love Divine*” – HTLC Choir



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

R: Into whatever journey lies before us,

All: lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.

R: The first reading is from Romans, chapter ten, beginning with the eighth verse.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

After these events, the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great.”

Abram said, “But my Sovereign, My God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus. Since you have given me no offspring,” Abram continued, “an attendant in my house will be my heir.”

Then the word of Yahweh came to Abram and said, “This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood.” Then God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants.” Abram believed Yahweh, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

Yahweh then said to Abram, “I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.”

Abram asked, “Sovereign God, how am I to know that I will possess it?”

God answered Abram, “Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” Abram brought all of these, cut them in half, and

placed each half opposite the other—except the birds, which he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell over Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking brazier and a flaming torch appeared, which passed between the halves of the sacrifices. On that day Yahweh made this covenant with Abram: “To your descendants I give this land, from the River of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.

R: Here ends the reading.

In God’s love, we are delivered.

All: In God’s presence, we are sheltered.

R: In times of trouble and times of joy,

All: God is with us, always and everywhere.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Luke 13:31-35*

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast. Herod is trying to kill you.”

Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’ Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on my journey today, tomorrow and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings—yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!’ ”

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME: “Stepping Stones through Lent”

– Carmen Blair

HYMN: “Thy Holy Wings”



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.

Be Seated

HOMILY – Pastor Tim

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . **MEAL** . . . SENDING

Please Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

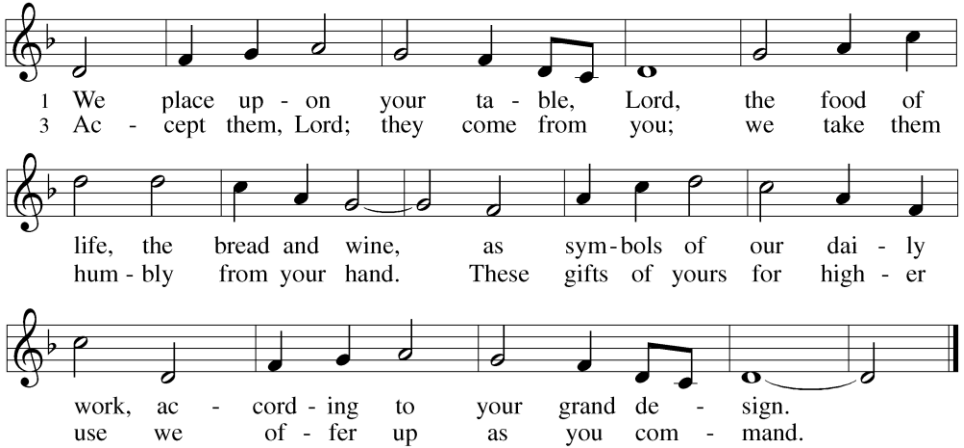
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As the ancient Hebrews were called to offer the first fruit of the harvest, so we are called to offer our gifts of gratitude to God.

All: May God move in our hearts and minds, as we give generously, gratefully, and joyfully.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “*We Place upon Your Table, Lord*” vs. 1,3



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the food of
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them
life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our dai - ly
hum - bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for high - er
work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.
use we of - fer up as you com - mand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of light, your blessings are as numerous as the stars;
your mercy is as deep as the sea.

All: **You gather us into your embrace, like a mother hen
gathers her chicks.**

L: For your many blessings, we offer you our tithes and
offerings.

All: **May these gifts be a source of blessing for others, that
all might know the promise of your goodness in the
mean and evil places of the world. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

L: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the
church, the world, and all those in need. Holy God, you
long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the
churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that
your people may take heart and stand firm as they
witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

All: **receive our prayer.**

L: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and
Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your

promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: Christ is with you.

All: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

All: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

All: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

All: We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus,

All: our strength in the wilderness.

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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: "Jerusalem, My Happy Home"



- 1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
- 2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
- 3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;
- 4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;
- 5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

COMMUNION HYMN: "Children of the Heavenly Father"



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird or star in heav - en such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.

All: Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,

P: mending broken hearts, working for justice,

All: and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

All: Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God.

All: We will walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High.

P: Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

All: **We go forth to love and serve.**

POSTLUDE



A Journey Through Lent

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