

"Seek
the LORD
while
he may
be found;
call
upon him
while he
is near."

Isaiah 55:6

March 23, 2025

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

March 23, 2025
9:30 AM 3rd 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.

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Worship is a place to rest.

All: We breathe deeply here.

L: We still our aching bones.

All: We sit in the quiet.

L: We surround ourselves with music.

All: Worship is a place to rest.

L: Worship is a place to grow.

All: We listen for God's word.

L: We invite it to challenge us.

All: We lean in with curiosity.

L: We ask questions.

All: Worship is a place to grow.

L: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

All: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there. Let us worship our gracious God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

All: We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

P: There are also days when we fail to act.

All: We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction.

P: God, forgive our imbalance.

All: Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

P: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

All: God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" vs. 1,3



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



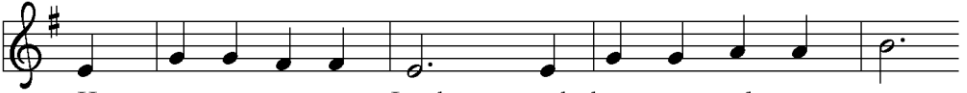
Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

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!

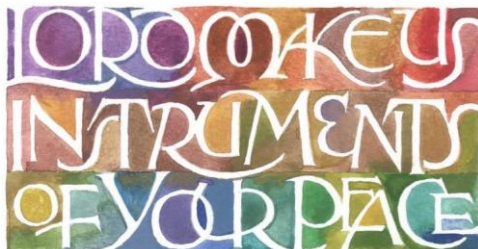
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.

All: Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

ANTHEM: *"Prayer of St. Francis"* – 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 Isaiah, chapter fifty-five, beginning with the first verse.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 55:1-9*

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, buy food and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk,
without money, without price!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you will eat well,
you will delight in rich fare;
bend your ear and come to me,
listen, that you may have life:

I will make an everlasting Covenant with you—
in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David.

See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the nations.

See, you will summon nations you never knew,
and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you—
for the sake of Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel,
who will glorify you.

Seek me, Yahweh, while I may still be found,
call upon me while I am near!

Let the corrupt abandon their ways,
the evil their thoughts.

Let them return to Yahweh, and I will have mercy on them;
return to God, for I will freely pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways, my ways,” says Yahweh.
“As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

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,

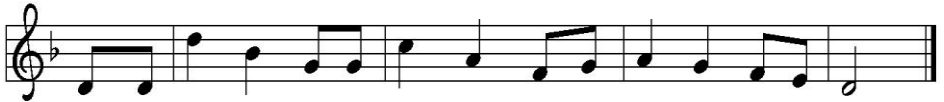
All: God is with us, always and everywhere.

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 13:1-9*

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

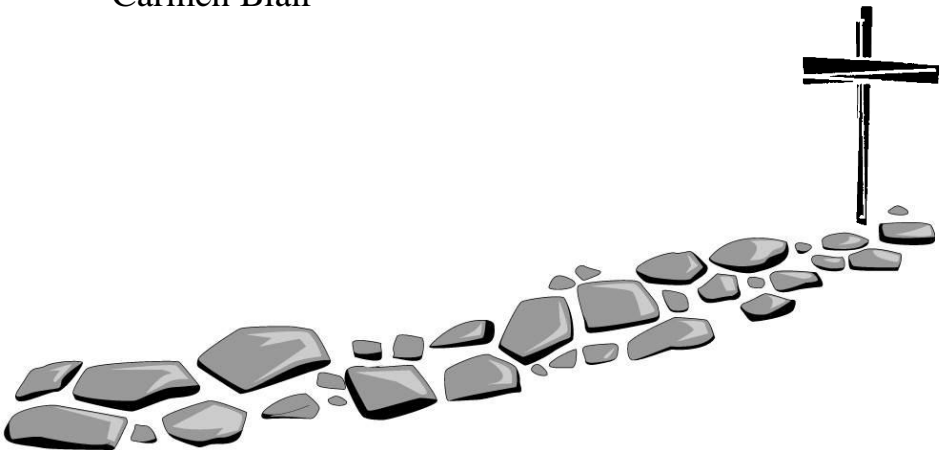
Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME: *“Stepping Stones through Lent”*

– Carmen Blair



HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" vs. 1,2



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv' n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.

Be Seated

HOMILY – Pastor Tim

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

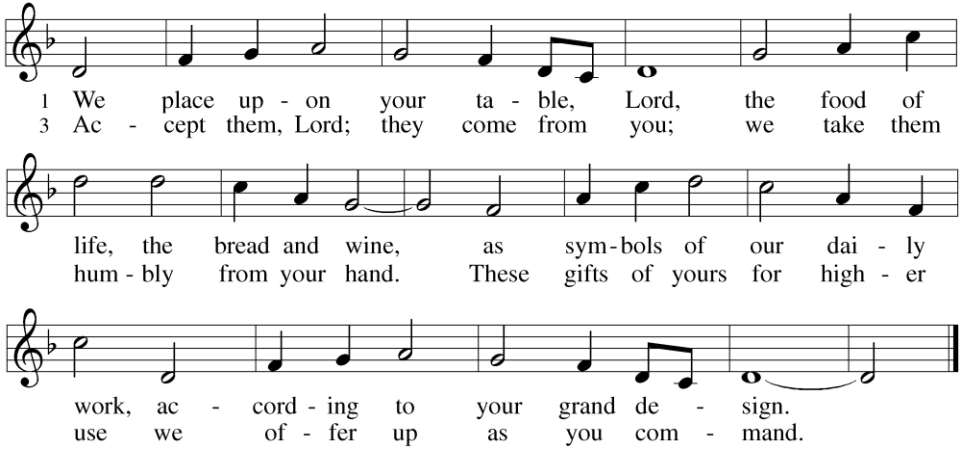
L: Come to the waters.

All: Share the fruit of god's abundance in your life, that others may taste of God's grace and be washed in the living water of Christ's love.

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: Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings.

All: **Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. 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. We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. 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.

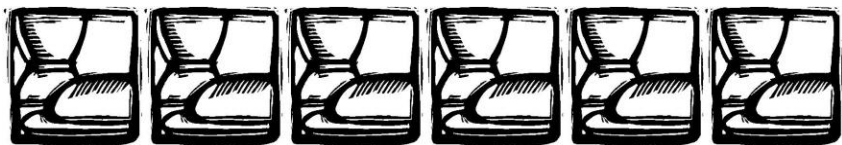
Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

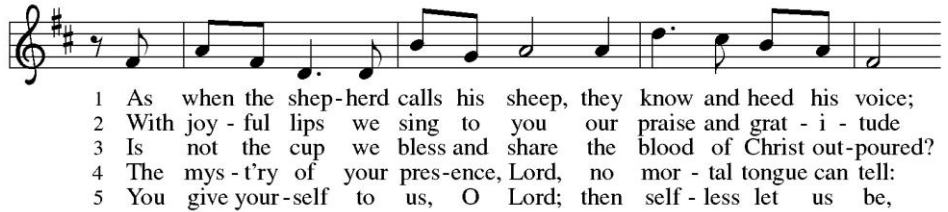
Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For communion at the altar rail:

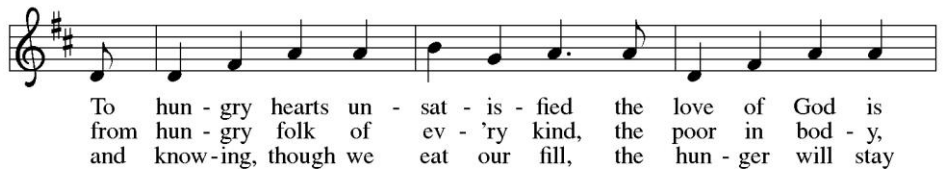
When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.



COMMUNION HYMN: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"



COMMUNION HYMN: "We Come to the Hungry Feast"



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: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" vs. 1,2



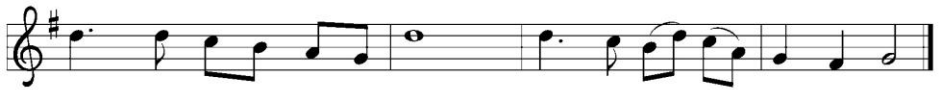
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem-er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain where the heal - ing



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.

DISMISSAL

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

All: We go forth to love and serve.

POSTLUDE



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