

She bought it so that
she might keep it for
the day of my burial.

John 12:7, NRSV



April 6, 2025

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

April 6, 2025
9:30 AM 4th 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.

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

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: *“Start a Fire”*

Intro:

Ooo, ooo
Ooo, ooo, Ooo,
ooo, ooo, ooo

Verse 1:

This world can be cold and bitter
Feels like we're in the dead of winter
Waiting on something better
But am I really gonna hide forever?

Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
Let Your light shine, let Your light shine for all to see

Chorus:

Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You
that we need Start a fire in me

Verse 2:

You only need a spark to start a whole blaze
It only takes a little faith Let it start right here in this city
So these old walls will never be the same
Over and over again I hear Your voice in my head
They need to know I need to go
Spirit won't You fall on my heart now

Chorus

Bridge:

You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
We have the hope we bear Your name
We carry the news that You have come to save, yeah
Only You can save, yeah

Chorus:

Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You
that we need Start a fire in me

Ending:

You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
Start a fire in me

Ooo, ooo, Ooo, ooo

Ooo, ooo, ooo

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: “*Amazing Grace-My Chains are Gone*”

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

T’was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus:

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace

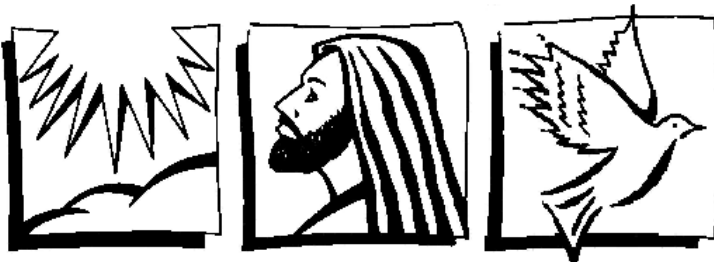
The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures

Chorus (2x)

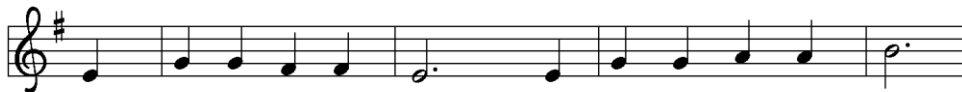
GREETING

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: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert.

All: **Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

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

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 forty-three, beginning with the sixteenth verse.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says Yahweh,
who made a road through the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who led chariots and warriors to their doom,
a mighty army fallen, never to rise again,
snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:

“Forget the events of the past,
ignore the things of long ago!
Look, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth—can’t you see it?
I’m making a road in the desert
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland.
Wild beasts will honor me—
the jackals and the ostriches—
for I will put water in the desert
and rivers in the wasteland
for my chosen people to drink,
these people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.”

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
READING
8

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 John.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *John 12:1-8*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: You have anointed us with your word, O God, as surely as Jesus was anointed by Mary.

All: May the sweetness of your ways bless us all the days of our lives. And may the presence of your Spirit move us to give joyfully and receive gratefully. Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME: *"Stepping Stones through Lent"*
– Carmen Blair

Please Stand

HYMN: *"Word of God, Speak"*

Verse 1:

I'm finding myself at a loss for words,
And the funny thing is, it's okay
The last thing I need.... is to be heard,
But to hear what you would say. Word of God speak

Chorus:

Would you pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty, to be still and know
That You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.
Word of God speak

Verse 2:

I'm finding myself in the midst of You,
Beyond the music, beyond the noise.
All that I need is to be with You,
And in the quiet, hear Your voice. Word God of speak

Chorus:

Would you pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty, to be still and know
That You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.
I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is, it's okay

HOMILY – Pastor Tim

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

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

OFFERING SONG: *“Where I Belong”*

Verse 1:

Sometimes it feels like I’m watching from the outside.
Sometimes it feels like I’m breathing, but am I alive?
I won’t keep searching for answers that aren’t here to find.

Chorus:

All I know is I’m not home yet.
This is not where I belong.
Take this world and give me Jesus.
This is not where I belong

Verse 2:

So when the walls come falling down on me,
And when I’m lost in the current of the raging sea,
I have blessed assurance holding me.

Chorus

Verse 3:

When the earth shakes,
I want to be found in You.
When the lights fade,
I want to be found in You.

Chorus (2x):

All I know is I'm not home yet.
This is not where I belong.
Take this world and give me Jesus.
This is not where I belong

Ending:

Where I Belong,
Where I Belong,
Where I Belong,
Where I Belong.

Please Stand

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: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

All: As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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. The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God, 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.

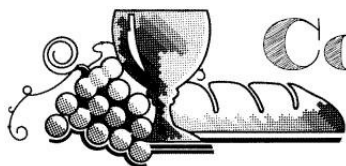
All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come!

All: The feast of grace is spread for all.

Be Seated



**Come to the
Feast**

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 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.

ANTHEM – Tongan Wesleyan Church Choir

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Shine on Us*”

Verse 1:

Lord let Your light,
light of Your face shine on us.

Lord, let Your light,
Light of Your face shine on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let your light shine on us.

Verse 2:

Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord, let Your grace,
Grace from Your hand fall on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us

Verse 3:

Lord, let Your love
Love with no end come over us.
Lord, let Your love,
Love with no end, come over us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let your light shine on us

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



Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: God comes to us in times of trial and leads us on paths of transformation and grace.

All: We will return to God in troubled times.

P: Christ teaches us to give without remembering and to receive without forgetting.

All: We go forth to walk in the ways of Christ.

P: The Spirit offers us courage and strength for the journey.

All: We rest in the assurance of the Spirit's abiding strength.

P: Go with God.

All: We go forth to love and serve.

SENDING HYMN: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Verse:

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I’m so glad You’re in my life
I’m so glad You came to save us

Chorus:

You came from Heaven to Earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Repeat Verse and Chorus 2x

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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