

THE HOLY TRINITY
MAY 30-31, A.D. 2026
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEST POINT, NEBRASKA

AS WE GATHER

We usually think of ourselves as small, humble creatures. We are subject to the creation in which we live and often are at the mercy of the forces around us. But we are reminded in Genesis that we are the crown of God's creation, part and parcel of all He has made. We cannot understand Him, but we know enough. That is Peter's reminder to those who executed Jesus: He did not stay dead but was able to overcome the forces opposed to Him—for us! We have work to do, Jesus tells the disciples and us in the Gospel. But we do not have to do it alone. Though we cannot understand Him, God is with us each day in His strength, mercy, and forgiving love. In short, we need not comprehend our great God; we only receive all the love He has for us. "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:1).

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy" LSB 507

sts. 1-4

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-76; setting: The Worshipbook: Services and Hymns, 1972

Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 8:1; Genesis 1:3, 31

- P O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
C **You have set Your glory above the heavens.**

- P And God said, "Let there be light,"
C **and there was light.**

- P And God saw everything that He had made,
C **and behold, it was very good.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us come before God with our sins to acknowledge them before Him and in the presence of one another.
- C **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have failed to be the people You have created us to be. We daily miss the mark of being very good, and we fail to be Your representatives in the care of Your good creation. With the early disciples, although we do believe, sometimes we doubt. Only by Your grace are we able to come before You and find peace and joy. Remind us of Your great love and mercy for us.**
- P Jesus has joyful work for us to do. He has commanded us to go, teach, and baptize. And, despite our sins, He also promised, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). God’s majesty is not only in creating the world in which we live but in loving us despite our daily failures. He sent His Son to forgive our every sin. As David wrote, “I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken” (Acts 2:25).

As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C **Amen.**

PSALM 8

- P O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
- C **You have set Your glory above the heavens.**
- P Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?
- C **Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.**
- P You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- C **O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

KYRIE

- P Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Father, have mercy on us.**
- P Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Christ, have mercy on us.**
- P Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Holy Spirit, grant us Your peace. Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty.

C **Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities;**

P for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: " 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, " 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' " "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH IN THE TRIUNE GOD

HYMN "We All Believe In One True God" LSB 953

(spoken)

1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;

By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed.' Meiningen, 1693;
setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and music: Public domain

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN “O Day of Rest And Gladness” LSB 906

- 1 O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness,
Most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly,
Through ages joined to bless,
Sing, “Holy, holy, holy,”
The triune God confess.
- 2 This day at earth’s creation
The light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord victorious
The Spirit sent from heav’n,
And thus this day most glorious
A threefold light was giv’n.
- 3 This day, God’s people meeting,
His Holy Scripture hear;
His living presence greeting,
Through bread and wine made near.
We journey on, believing,
Renewed with heav’nly might,
From grace more grace receiving,
On this blest day of light.
- 4 That light our hope sustaining,
We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining,
Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises
To Thee, blest Three in One.

Text (sts. 1–2): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.; (st. 3): Charles P. Price, 1920–99; (st. 4): The Hymnal 1982

Tune: Gesangbuch de Herzogl, Hofkapelle, Wurttemberg, 1784; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

Text (st. 3): © 1982 Charles P. Price; (st. 4): © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888

SERMON “The *Rest Of Creation’s Story*”

Text: Genesis 1:31-2:3

OFFERING

HYMN “O Blessed, Holy Trinity” LSB 876

- 1 O blessèd, holy Trinity,
Divine, eternal Unity,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
This day Your name be uppermost.
- 2 My soul and body keep from harm,
And over all extend Your arm;
Let Satan cause me no distress
Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.
- 3 The Father’s love shield me this day;
The Son’s pure wisdom cheer my way;
The Holy Spirit’s joy and light
Drive from my heart the shades of night.
- 4 My Maker, hold me in Your hand;
O Christ, forgiven let me stand;
Blest Comforter, do not depart;
With faith and love enrich my heart.
- 5 Lord, bless and keep me as Your own;
Lord, look in kindness from Your throne;
Lord, shine unfailing peace on me
By grace surrounded; set me free.

Text: Martin Behm, 1557–1622; tr. Conrad H. L. Schuette, 1843–1926, alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 8:2, 4–6, 9

P Let us pray for the world around us, all people, and ourselves.

“Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength.”

Grant wisdom and love for families in and beyond this congregation, O Lord. We give thanks for growing families and that they grow stronger in love as You guide and protect them.

C **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

P “When I look at Your heavens, . . . what is man that You are mindful of him.”

Grant humility to all of us. Grant that we grow in faith toward You and love toward one another.

C **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

P “Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings.”
Grant us grace to acknowledge the true place of governments and nations, care workers and medical professionals, and those who tend crops and herds, as they seek to meet the needs of the people under their care.

C **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

P You have “crowned him with glory and honor.”
Open the eyes of the proud, who seek ever greater power and prestige, that they may find true greatness in serving as You have, in love and mercy.

C **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

Special concerns may be added.

P You have given us “dominion over the works of Your hands.”
Give wisdom and guidance to everyone who manages Your good creation that all people may be fed, peace may break out, and many people around us will join to say,

C **“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” LSB 794

1 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day

And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.

- 2 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav'nly good.
- 3 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
And gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support
In sorrow's gloomy hour.
- 4 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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