

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
May 31, 2026
The Holy Trinity



Our Vision

**Love and serve God by walking with, caring for,
and learning from our members, friends, and neighbors.**

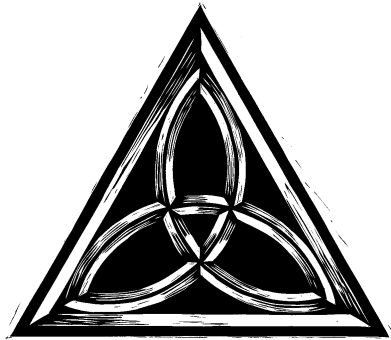
Our Values

Welcome. Generosity. Faithfulness.

Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Litany for Trinity Sunday

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

Glory to you forever!

Speaker, Word, and Breath of Life:

Glory to you forever!

Font of Blessing, Living Water, Flowing River:

Glory to you forever!

Compassionate Mother, Beloved Child, Life-Giving Womb:

Glory to you forever!

Sun, Light, and Burning Ray:

Glory to you forever!

Giver, Gift, and Giving:

Glory to you forever!

Lover, Beloved, and Love itself:

Glory to you forever!

Rock, Cornerstone, and Temple:

Glory to you forever!

Consuming Fire, Dividing Sword, Overpowering Storm:

Glory to you forever!

Rainbow of Promise, Ark of Salvation, Dove of Peace:

Glory to you forever!

God who was, God who is, God who is to come:

Glory to you forever!

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given us grace, by our confession of faith,
to acknowledge and worship your triune name

(Continued on the next page.) 2

in the majesty of your unity.
Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship,
and bring us at last to see you in your eternal glory,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Song

ELW Hymn 413

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your
glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power,
majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith,
defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your
presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Page 1-2

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful
Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its
inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then
rests on the seventh day..*

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

"If We All Belong to God"



If we all be-long to God, how do we live? How do we live?



If we all be-long to God, how do we live? How do we live?



Look-ing up at the night sky__ and the work of your fin - gers
It's a won-der to breathe life__ in its splen-dor and glor-y__
Shar - ing life on this small world with our hu - man com - pan - ions



It's a - maz - ing you are mind - ful of us It's a -
with the hope - ful - ness of peace in our midst with the
We're com - mis - sioned to take care of this earth We're com -



maz - ing you are mind - ful of us
hope - ful - ness of peace in our midst
mis - sioned to take care of this earth

Second Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 186

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 115

Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 684

"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

Nicene Creed

ELW page 104

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:
God of grace,

hear our prayer.

At the conclusion:

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Handbell Choir

Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.



Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Before all that is, you were God.

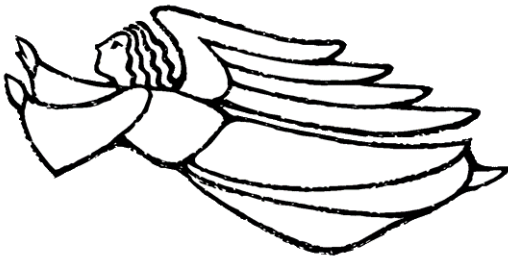
Outside all we know, you are God.

After all is finished, you will be God.

Archangels sound the trumpets,

Angels teach us their song,

Saints pull us into your presence.



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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
 You beyond the galaxies,
 You under the oceans,
 You inside the leaves,
 You pouring down rain,
 You opening the flowers,
 You feeding the insects,
 You giving us your image,
 You carrying us through the waters,
 You holding us in the night;
 Your smile on Sarah and Abraham,
 Your hand with Moses and Miriam,
 Your words through Deborah and Isaiah;
 You lived as Jesus among us,
 Healing, teaching, dying, rising,
 Inviting us all to your feast.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 he took bread, and gave thanks,
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

(Continued on the next page.) 8

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.

Holy God, we remember your Son,
His life with the humble,
His death among the wretched,
His resurrection for us all:
Your wisdom our guide,
Your justice our strength,
Your grace our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:

Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:

Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing:

Blessing!

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit:
Enliven this bread,
Awaken this body,
Pour us out for each other.
Transfigure our minds,
Ignite your church,
Nourish the life of the earth.
Make us, while many, united,
Make us, though broken, whole,
Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,

Our Life, our Mercy, our Might,

Our Table, our Food, our Server,

Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove,

Our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine,

Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,

Our Way, our Truth, our Life.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Praise now,

Praise tomorrow,

Praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen, amen:

Amen, amen!

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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;

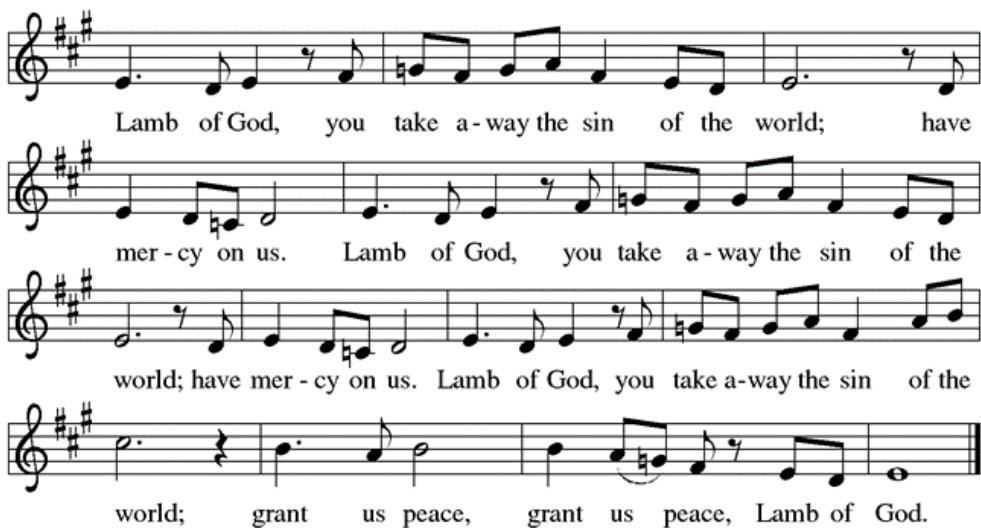
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion

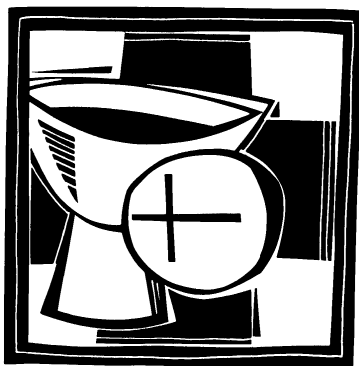
We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.

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*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

and each person may respond:

Amen.



Prayer After Communion

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.



Sending Song

ELW hymn 412

“Come, Join the Dance of Trinity”

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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DAILY PRAYER

For Summer Travel

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us when we travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Sunday Greeting

The standard greeting with which to begin the Sunday liturgy (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 98) quotes 2 Corinthians: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Christian worship begins not the usual social hello of “Good morning.” To some grieving and troubled worshippers and in times of great communal sorrow, it is not a good morning. Rather, we are privileged to use the uniquely Christian greeting: we give to one another the grace, love, and communion of the triune God. The “holy kiss” that Paul speaks of is the earliest version in the worshiping assembly of our greeting of peace.

LIFE ON EARTH

God’s Good Earth

Genesis 1, which may have been crafted as a poem or song, is one of the strongest biblical passages in praise of the earth as God’s good creation. The “six days” of God’s work has repeated itself throughout earth time: always God is creating the skies, the lands, and the seas, and all their creatures. In this reading, God’s creation is entirely alive: humans are vegetarians, thus not killing for survival. Early church fathers taught that all animals were originally vegetarians. We now know that God’s evolving creation was from the beginning marked by death contending against life—as Christians see in Christ’s cross and resurrection. We are now called to join with God in a continual care for the “very good” earth, trusting that in God life will conquer death.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Sunday, May 31, 2026

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165

Monday, June 1, 2026

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754

Friday, June 5, 2026

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Mission Partners

In Matthew 28:16-20, often referred to as “The Great Commission,” Jesus officially charges his disciples with tasks of teaching, discipling, and baptizing people of all nations and groupings. An assigned task or mission is the classic sense of the word commission. But what if we also considered Jesus’ charge to his disciples a co-mission—a mission together?

In John’s gospel, Jesus speaks plainly to the disciples about participating in, continuing, and even expanding upon Jesus’ work. Here in Matthew’s gospel, the resurrected Jesus declares his cosmic authority, having triumphed over even death, and then he immediately turns around to share that authority with the disciples. Their mission is Jesus’ mission: to build an inclusive community of compassion, mercy, and healing.

The work of Christ is shared work. We share it with one another, and we share it with Christ himself. The call to discipleship is always a community endeavor. In the liturgy for baptism, the gathered assembly affirms the newly baptized, saying, “We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world” (ELW, p. 231).

Not one of us is tasked with saving the world by ourselves. Only Jesus could and would bear that responsibility, and even he chose to invite others into the work. It is by grace that we are counted among Jesus’ disciples. And it is within the community of grace that we continue to proclaim and manifest God’s kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. We look to our community of faith for support, assurance, assistance, and solidarity as we partner with Christ and one another to bring God’s good news to the world.