

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Holy Trinity First Sunday after Pentecost

Baccalaureate Service

May 31, 2026

9:00 AM Traditional Worship

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Kris Adams

Acolyte: Beckett Nelson

Ushers: Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum & Sharon Manson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Heber, arr by Maggs
First Class Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy" #413 ELW

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #858 ELW vss. 1 & 4

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

Sit

ANTHEM: “Song of Hope” by Schutmaat arr. by Hopson Chancel Choir

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹⁻² First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don’t see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God’s Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. ³⁻⁵ God spoke: “Light!” and light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning— day one. ⁶⁻⁸ God spoke: “Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!” God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning—day two. ⁹⁻¹⁰ God spoke: “Separate! water-beneath-heaven, gather into one place; land, appear!” And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good. ¹¹⁻¹³ God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, every sort of fruit-bearing tree.” And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, and fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning—day three. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ God spoke: “Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven’s sky! Separate day from night. Mark seasons and days and years, lights in heaven’s sky to give light to earth.” And there it was. ¹⁶⁻¹⁹ God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of day, the smaller to be in charge of night; and he made the stars. God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up earth and oversee day and night, to separate light and dark. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning—day four. ²⁰⁻²³ God spoke: “Swarm, ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!” God created the huge whales, all the

swarm of life in the waters, and every kind and species of flying birds. God saw that it was good. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill ocean, birds, reproduce on earth!” It was evening, it was morning—day five. ²⁴⁻²⁵ God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds.” And there it was: wild animals of every kind, cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good. ²⁶⁻²⁸ God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.” God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God’s nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.” ²⁹⁻³⁰ Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth and every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food. To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.” and there it was. ³¹ God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning—day six. 2:1 Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail. ²⁻⁴ By the seventh day God had finished his work. On the seventh day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day. He made it a holy day because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done. This is the story of how it all started, of heaven and Earth when they were created.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” # 172 ELW

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 28th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally. ¹⁸⁻²⁰ Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: go out

and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "Borning Cry" #732 ELW

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence

P: Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Provide for all who hunger. Protect those in harm's way. Comfort any experiencing hardship. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, we pray for the children of our church and community. Provide for their needs. Support their caregivers. Nurture their faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal promises. Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Christe Sanctorum" set by Raab

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS/PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduating High School Seniors: Libby Conant, Gatlin Empey, Moses Harris, Evey Kellnhofer, Carsten Koch, Dana McCoy, Parker Sellnow and Kai Sickles

Stand

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: “Go My Children, With My Blessing” #543 ELW

POSTLUDE: “Come, Join the Dance of Trinity” set by Miller