



SAINT PAUL'S

Lutheran Church
200 N CEDAR ST
IMLAY CITY, MI 48444

Trinity Sunday
May 31, 2026
Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!

Our mission:

Responding to God's grace, we go out to bring hope and share the love of Christ.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of the Peace

Confession and Forgiveness

Holy and triune God,

You live in perfect relationship, One God in three persons, mutual and loving.

You have called us to live as loving, community minded beings, yet

We confess that our relationships are vastly imperfect.

We are self-absorbed and greedy.

We have allowed sin to drive us apart from one another, and from you.

**Forgive us and restore us, by the working power of your Holy Spirit, and through your son our Lord.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Triune God promises us newness of life, a gift of new birth.
The Trinity invites us to testify to divine unity as the foundation for reconciliation of all of God's people and for Creation.

In these truths, we trust and give thanks. Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn:

Come Thou Almighty King

#408

Apostolic 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.**

Trinity Litany

Loving God,
**beginning and end,
giver of food and drink,
clothing and warmth,
love and hope:
life in all its goodness -
we praise and adore you.**

Jesus, wisdom and word;
**lover of outcasts,
friend of the poor;
one of us yet one with God;
crucified and risen:
life in the midst of death -
we praise and adore you.**

Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love;

**bridge-builder, eye-opener,
waker of the oppressed,
unseen and unexpected,
untameable energy of life -
we praise and adore you.**

Holy Trinity, forever one,
**whose nature is community;
source of all sharing,
in whom we love, and meet, and know our neighbor:
life in all its fullness, making all things new:
we praise and adore you.**

Hymn of Praise

Father, Most Holy verses 1-3

#415

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

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 faith, guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed . We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Youth Message

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were

under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven!

² **From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.**

³ When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—

⁴ **what are human beings**

**that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?**

⁵ You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.

⁶ **You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—**

⁷ **all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,**

⁸ the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,

everything that travels the pathways of the sea.

⁹ **Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!**

Second Reading: II Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**All: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go

therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

#413

Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession:

A: Lord, in your mercy... **C:** Hear our Prayer

Offering

Offertory prayer

Let us pray:

Like the gifts of creation, we are but steward of all we possess. And like the gifts of creation, they are not to be hoarded, but shared with the hungry, the lonely, the lost, the struggling. As we offer our gifts, receive our thanks and praise in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Thom Schumann, Lectionary Liturgies

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace. Lamb of God.

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns:

You Servants of God

#825

Holy God, we Praise Your Name

#414

Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Benediction and Blessing of Travelers

P. Today we seek God's blessing upon those among us who will travel this summer, entrusting them into the hands of the Lord. Let us pray that God will give them a safe journey and that, as they travel, they will praise God in all his creatures; that they will experience God's own goodness in the hospitality they receive, and that they act as God's ambassadors to all they meet.

God has put his angels in charge of us.

To guard us in all our ways.

Let us pray. **Lord God our Father, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their journey; you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea; and by a star you led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide those who travel this summer; make their ways safe and their homecomings joyful. Amen**

Benediction

May God,

who comes to us in the things of this world,
bless your eyes that you see the divine fingerprints.

May Christ,

who looks upon you with deepest love,
bless your eyes and widen your gaze of compassion.

May the Spirit,

who perceives what is and what may yet be,
bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three, known by the Church throughout the ages as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you this day and each day as you go forth to be witnesses.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

– adapted from a benediction written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on [The Painted Prayerbook](#)

Sending Hymn: All Creatures (verses 1, 2, 4, 6)

#835

Dismissal: A: Go in Peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Communion is served each Sunday. All are welcome to commune.

N.T. Wright on Trinity Sunday

“In the church’s year, Trinity Sunday is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we’ve been celebrating for the previous five months—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost—and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word ‘god’ might actually mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a dangerous god, a subversive god, a god who comes to us like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, ‘You did not choose me; I chose you.’

You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying ‘we don’t know’ as of saying ‘we do know.’ To say that the true God is Three and One is to recognize that if there is a God then of course we shouldn’t expect him to fit neatly into our little categories. If he did, he wouldn’t be God at all, merely a god, a god we might perhaps have wanted. The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they’ve got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.

On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: ‘Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.’ Or, perhaps better,

the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: ‘Come, and I will make you children of light.’ The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him.”

~ N.T. Wright, in *For All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997), p. 24.

St. Paul’s phone number: 810-724-1200

Website: <https://www.stpaulslutheranic.org/>

Attendance Sunday - Traditional: Contemporary:

Food for Families – Monday- meals pantry, Wednesday- meals pantry

Worship Leaders:

Assisting minister:

Lector:

Ushers:

Communion Ministers:

Acolytes:

Organist: Sheryl Laidlaw

Praise Team: Spike Vires, Rachel Case, Payton Day, Nichole Nash, Claribel Thompson, Caleb Tietz

Youth Minister: Kaylee Kaeding

Pastor: Rev. Sharon Smith



Donation QR