

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764*

**Sunday, May 31, 2026
The Holy Trinity, Year A**



Introduction

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.

Welcome:

Gathering Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

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.

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.

Amen.

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.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

A reading from the first book of Genesis

¹ 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.

^{2:1} 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.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 8

Reader: O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**ALL: you whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies,
to silence the foe and avenger.**

Reader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**ALL: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

Reader: Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

**ALL: You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

Reader: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

ALL: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: 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.

A Reading from the Second Book to the Corinthians

[Paul writes:] ¹¹ 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

Gospel Acclimation: Sing Praise to the Lord



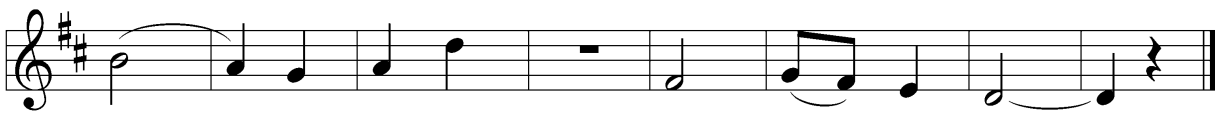
Sing praise to the Lord: al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, our thanks be to God.



Sing praise to the Lord: al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia. Thanks be to God.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

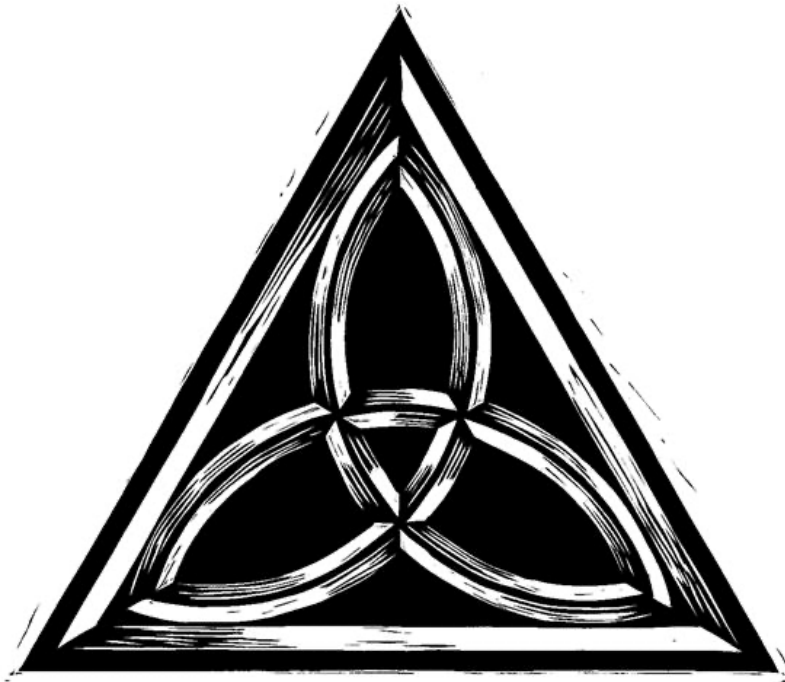
After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Gospel According to Matthew
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶ 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Glory to You, O Christ.

Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman



Hymn of the Day: Come, Join the Dance of Trinity ELW 414



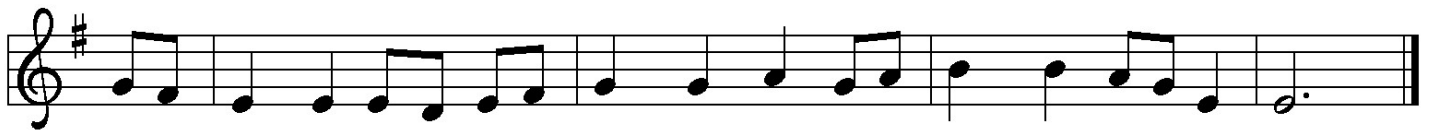
1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter-weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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Apostles' 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

Please respond to each invocation: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with You.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please be seated.

OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

Offering Hymn: God is Love ACS 1041

God is love. God is love; let us love one an -

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

God is love. God is love.

The third system concludes the hymn. The treble staff has a half note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note D5. The bass staff concludes with its accompaniment.

Text: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, based on 1 John 4:11, 16, 19
Music: GOD IS LOVE, Mark Mummert
Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

Loving God,
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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with You

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



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



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.**

Invitation to Communion

We believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus. In this sacrament we are invited to have a personal experience of Christ's presence. This is the Lord's table. All who desire to be in relationship with Christ are welcome to receive.

We receive communion using bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
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Communion Hymn: Taste and See

Refrain – All

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34
Music: TASTE AND SEE, James E. Moore Jr.
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God Is Love

The musical score for 'God Is Love' is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'God is love. God is love; let us love one another as God first loved us. God is love. God is love. God is love.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, based on 1 John 4:11, 16, 19
Music: GOD IS LOVE, Mark Mummert
Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements:

Blessing:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

**Pr. Anne will be on sabbatical
from June 6 - August 8**

Pr. Pam Wells will be providing
pulpit supply and pastoral care.
She can be reached at 727-248-6630.

Over the summer Katie will be in the office
Tuesdays 9:00 - 2:00
Wednesdays 9:00 - Noon
Thursdays 9:00 - 2:00
Fridays as needed.

The office phone number is 727-741-0917.
Office email is office@stpaulsclearwater.org

JoDee Hub is the Council President - 727-417-1587

Gene Binion - Council Vice President 727-272-1045

Recessional Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee ELW 836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Summer 2026 Calendar Dates

FaithTalk@7 meets on ZOOM every Tuesday...at 7:00

Pop-Up meets at the Old Church every Thursday at 11:00 to distribute food

June

June 3 - 6 - Synod Assembly

Thursday, June 4 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM

Tuesday, June 9 - Drum Circle - 10:30 AM

Friday, June 12 - Council Meeting - 10:30 AM

Wednesday, June 17 - Silver Foxes - 1:00 PM

Thursday, June 18 - Quilt Ministry 9:00 - Noon

Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day

Wednesday, June 24 - Book Club - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, June 24 - Prayer Around the Globe 7:15 PM

July

Thursday, July 2 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM

Sunday, July 5 - 250th Independence Day Picnic in the Hall

Friday, July 10 - Council Meeting - 10:30 AM

Friday, July 10 - Pastor Pam's Birthday!

Wednesday, July 15 - Silver Foxes - 1:00 PM

Thursday, July 16 - Quilt Ministry 9:00 AM

Wednesday, July 22 - Grace Notes: "By Request" - 7:15 PM

Wednesday, July 29 - Book Club - 11:00 AM

August

Thursday, August 6 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM

Sunday, August 9 - Pr. Anne back

Wednesday, August 12 - Taizé Prayer -7:15 PM

Friday, August 14 - Council Meeting - 9:30 AM

Wednesday, August 19 - Silver Foxes - 1:00 PM

Thursday, August 20 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM

Wednesday, August 26 - Book Club - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, August 26 - Healing Service - 7:15 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

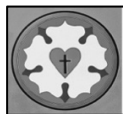
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Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

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To reach Pastor Anne
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St. Paul's Spirituality Center
an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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