

**Sunday, May 31, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

The May Children's offering will go towards the United Way's Let's Feed Our Children program.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

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815-625-3069

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## The Holy Trinity

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.

### Prelude

*"I Give You Praise"*

Cindy Berry

### 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.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**All: 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.**

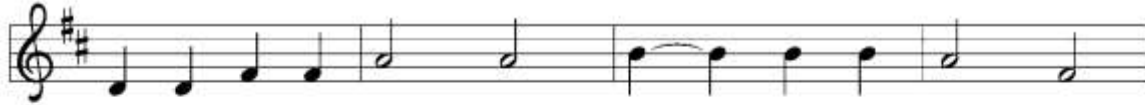
P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**All: Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

### “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

ELW #413



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

## GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

<sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

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

<sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> 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.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> 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.” <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> God saw

everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude.

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 8**

R: 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.**

R: 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?**

R: 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:**

R: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

**All: the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

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

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love

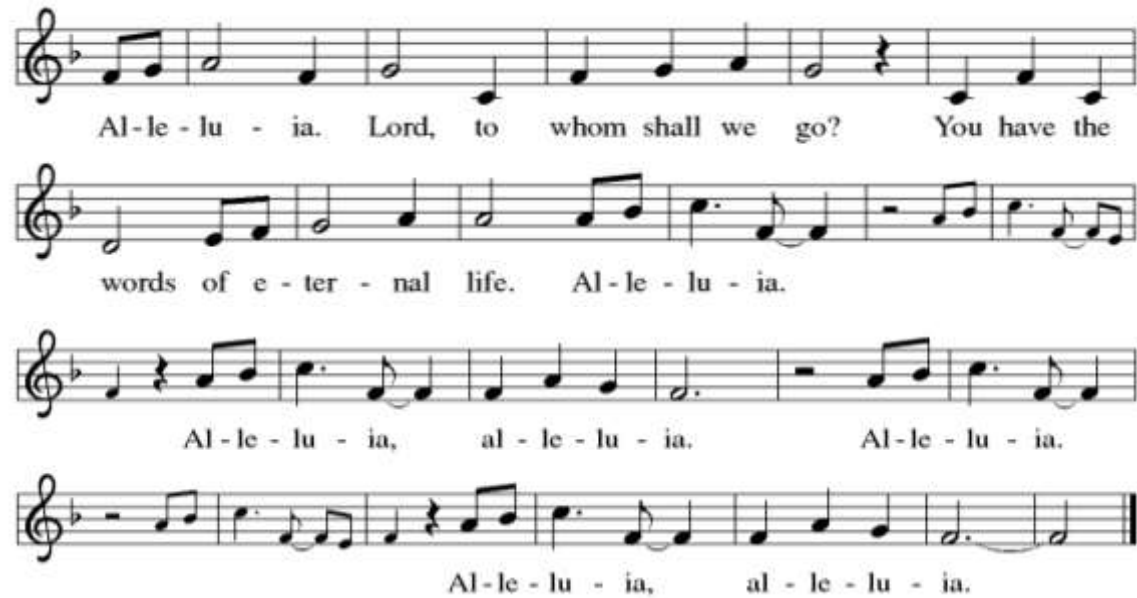
and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

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

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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 <sup>20</sup> 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 the Lord,

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Children's Message

#### Sermon

"Exercising Dominion, Genesis Style"

#### Hymn of the Day

**"Go to the World"**



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

## Graduate and Faith Formation Leader Recognition

### Academic Achievements

**Mia Arians:** Challand Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion

**Andrew Eakle:** Challand Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion

**Lucas Engstrom:** Challand Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion

**Nolan Saathoff:** Challand Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion

**Daniel Straw:** Challand Middle School - 8th Grade Promotion

**Parker Volk:** Pectatonica Middle School - 8th Grade Promotion

**Bradyn Arians:** Sterling High School

**Addisyn Petty:** Dixon High School

P: Let us pray together:

**All: God of wisdom, bless these graduates. May the lessons they have learned and the legacy of their accomplishments be blessed so that they may be a blessing to others. Amen.**

### Faith Formation Leaders:

Susan Bartel

Stacey Avelar

Mary Ordean

Ashley Platz

Gabby Law

Dawn Zeigler

Julie Woessner DeJonge

### BLESSING:

P: Let us pray together:

**All: As these leaders have been a blessing to our children and to our church so bless these individuals and their families, so that the blessing of others may continue. Amen.**

### Apostles Creed

P: Trusting in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**All: 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 power of 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: God of grace,

**All: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you!**

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

### Offering

*"Holy Spirit, Rain Down"*

arr. Carol Tornquist

### Offering Prayer

P: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### ***“You Are Holy”***

musical score for the hymn "You Are Holy". The score is written on six staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand. Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead. You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness, you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

musical score for the hymn "Sing Hosanna". The score is written on three staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: you are pres - ent, Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord! Sing ho - san - na in the high - est! Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945  
Music: DU AR HELIG, Per Harling  
Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

## The Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

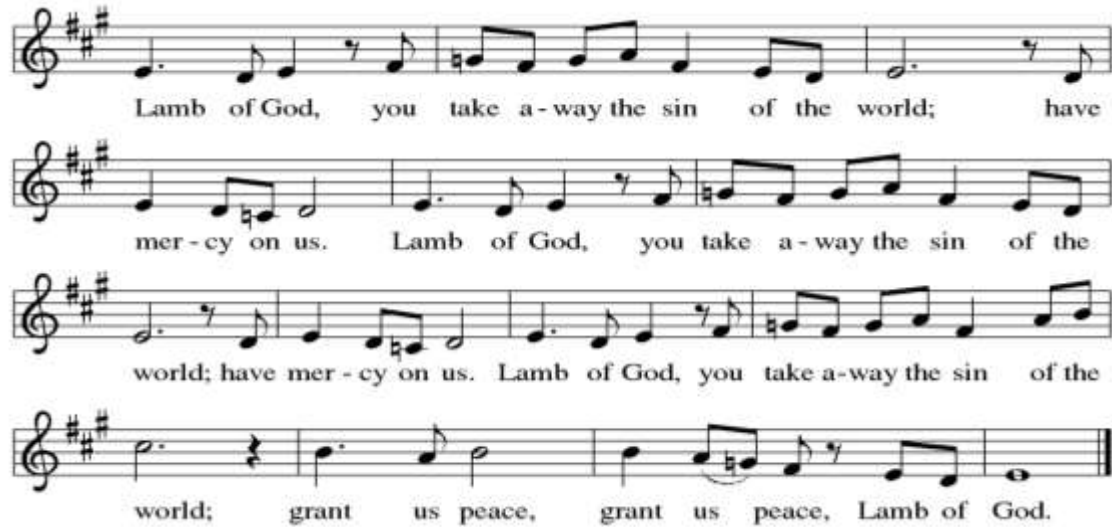
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

## Communion

### “Lamb of God”



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 Music

### “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

Martin Smith

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

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.

**All: Amen.**

## Blessing

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

**All: Amen.**

## Sending Song

### “How Majestic Is Your Name”

Sing twice



O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your  
name in all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how ma -  
jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O  
Lord, we praise your name. O Lord,  
we mag - ni - fy your name, Prince of Peace, might - y  
God, O Lord God Al - might - y.

Text and music: Michael W. Smith

Text and music © 1981 Meadowgreen Music Co., admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## Dismissal

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

### “A Dazzling Bouquet”

Bret Hesla

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Melinda, Callahan McCallister, Brad Hussung, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Maggie N., the Woodworth family, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Dylan Wescott, and Phyllis Jacobson.

**A special Graduation Coffee Fellowship** will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship. All are welcome!

**Worship Assistants:**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – *Volunteer Needed*

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Dan Dir, Diane Yoeckel

Ushers – Ann Beswick, Donna Kendall

Reader – Ann Beswick

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

**Musicians:**

Live:

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Recorded:

Julie McCord, Kerensa Pink, Gerad VonHolten, Dawn Zeigler

**Next Week – June 7– Worship Assistants**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Reader – Jim Gorman

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer needed*