



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Holy Trinity
May 31, 2026

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.

Overview

Celebrating Our God beyond Understanding

The festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the wonder of relationship with God while leaving us distinctly dissatisfied with our limited understanding of what God is. While guarding against the idolatry of language, we survey our scripture, doctrine, creeds, and symbols of our heritage. Equally important, we pray for God to inspire fresh, innovative ideas of God in the present moment.

Today's gospel contains one of the few biblical references to the trinitarian formula. As the eleven are commissioned to make disciples, baptize, and teach, we are invited to consider our calling to influence the world with the good news of God's love. The text from Second Corinthians also includes a kind of naming of the Holy Trinity in an affectionate sign-off of a personal letter. With the psalm praising God the creator and sustainer of all creation, Genesis 1 relates the first of two creation stories, this one an ancient liturgy celebrating God as a divine plural.

That God that is beyond our understanding may be both troubling and comforting. The temptation may be to attempt to apprehend the idea of God with our intellect, offering the worshiping assembly a showcase of various models for God. The result is usually disappointing and feeds our bias toward intellectualism. Another possibility is to celebrate God's presence in all its glory and colorful wonder and our belonging to this wonder-full God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Grady Daub

The Gathering

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

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW p. 116

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and
from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and
humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and
unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may
live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God
strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live
in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People

ELW #665

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW p.140

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: 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.

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 8 (read responsively)

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

1 O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

2 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.

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

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

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

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

7 all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

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

9 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.

[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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (2 times) ELW p. 172



***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.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

C **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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Compton

*HYMN OF THE DAY Come, Join the Dance of Trinity ELW #412

*APOSTLES CREED ELW p.127

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

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

A brief silence.

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, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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 especially *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachel Benkovic, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, and Sally Schonewolf.* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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, **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.**

*PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful****ELW #182**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A 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.

C Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

ELW p.144

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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.

*PREFACE

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:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p.144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone
who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your
holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
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.*

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension, and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.145

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

**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.**

*SHARING THE MEAL

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

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

ELW p.146

God Whose Almighty Word

ELW #673

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW #167

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen.

The Sending

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

***BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty ELW #413

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Holy, Holy, Holy Choir

POSTLUDE Grady Daub

Thank-you to Pastor Jeff Compton for leading our worship this morning. We appreciate you and your ministry.

We appreciate Grady Daub for sharing his musical talent with us this morning. Thank-you.

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Prelude - Grady Daub

Gathering Hymn - "Rise, Shine, You People" ELW #665 words -

Ronald Klug music - Dale Wood @1974 Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of Praise - "This Is the Feast" p. 140-141 ELW, setting 3

Gospel Acclamation - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 (2 times)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of the Day - "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity" ELW #412 words -

Richard Leach music - English folk tune KINGSFOLD @2001 Selah Publishing Co

Special Music - "Mighty Are Your Works, O God" - Mozart, arr. Hal H. Hopson @1992 Selah Publishing Co. Choir

Offertory Hymn - "Let the Vineyards" ELW #182 Richard Hillert @1978 LBW, Admin. Augsburg Fortress

Great Thanksgiving - p.144 ELW, setting 3

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" p.144 ELW, setting 3

Distribution Hymns - "Lamb of God" p. 146 ELW, setting 3

"God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW #673 words - John Marriott music - Felice de Giardini ITALIAN HYMN PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Now the Feast and Celebration" ELW #167 words & music - Marty Haugen @1990 GIA Publications Inc.

Sending hymn - "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" ELW #413 words - Reginald Heber music - John B. Dykes NICAEA PUBLIC DOMAIN

Choral Benediction - "Holy, Holy, Holy" -Franz Schubert, arr. Walter Ehret @1958 Edward B. Marks Music Co., Belwin Mills Publishing Corp. Choir

Postlude - Grady Daub

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If you are in need of Pastoral care, please reach out to our church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at stpetershighspire240@gmail.com . You can also reach out to Pastor Alex, at 717-434-5037.

Worship Participants for May 31, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Jeffrey Compton
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Musician	Grady Daub
Lector	Matthew Hunt

Worship for June 7, 2026

Church Picnic at Negley Park, Lemoyne PA. Worship will be at 10:15, with a meal to follow. Please bring a side dish to share.

Worship Participants for June 14, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Musician	Grady Daub
Lector	Grace Hoover

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Vases are presented to the Glory of God by John and Shirley Hawkins to honor the Home of the Brave for 250 years because of the Brave. God Bless all of you.

Altar Guild Announcement

If anyone is interested in a palm left from Palm Sunday, please feel free to give one a new home. They are located in the Nursery and can be picked up after the service today.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

On Wednesday, June 17th, there will be rehearsal for the Choir at 7:00pm at St. Michael in Harrisburg for Pastor Alex's Installation service. Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

All are Welcome Bible Study

The All are Welcome Bible Study meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com .

THANKFUL THREADS

The Thankful Threads is in need of children and adult pant and skirt hangers with clips. (There is NOT a need for regular hangers.) The hangers can be brought to the church prior to the services or during the Free Meal hours on Monday evening. For more information, call Martha Walmer at 717-939-0153.

A Friendly reminder from Sally:

Please remember to take 1 or more Samaritan Bags to hand out to those who may be in need of this outreach .They are located in a basket in the back of the sanctuary to grab and keep available in your travels.

Mark your calendar:

Sunday, June 21st at 2:00 PM Installation for Pastor Alex to be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Harrisburg

Come to church and stay for Fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.