



# THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

May 31, 2026

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." Today's gospel portrays the sending forth of the disciples 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 the 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 Creeds, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Prelude

*Come, Join the Dance of Trinity*

arr. Robert Lind  
(b. 1940)

## Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God – Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers in this community.

*silence for reflection*

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have lived only for the present, without regard for generations to come. We have sought the realms of this world, rather than your promised reign of justice and peace. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

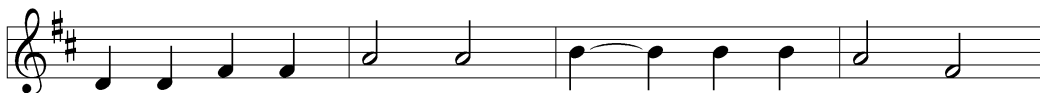
P: How blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. In the mercy of almighty God, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

## ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy



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 made blind by sin 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!

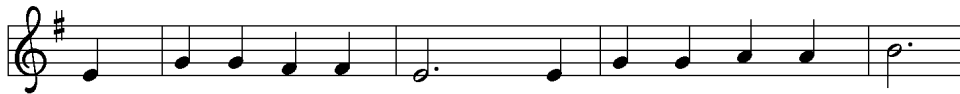
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.  
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

### 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.**

### Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### Hymn of Praise



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth;  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

### Salutation and Prayer of the Day



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: **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**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Lesson - Genesis 1:1—2:4a

*This first of two creation stories in Genesis reached its current form during the crisis of the Babylonian exile of the people of Israel. God, not their captors' god Marduk, was responsible for their existence. God created women and men as rulers over creation, to preserve and protect it. God also rested on the seventh day, hallowing that day forever as the Sabbath.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,<sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void 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 humankind 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 humankind 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.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh 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>4</sup>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 8

(sung in unison)

*The psalmist glorifies the name of the Lord, sovereign of the earth and the magnificent heavens,  
who has made human life to have mastery over all other earthly creatures.*

**<sup>1</sup>O | LORD our Lord,\*  
how exalted is your name in | all the world!  
<sup>2</sup>Out of the mouths of in- | fants and children\*  
your majesty is praised a- | bove the heavens.  
<sup>3</sup>You have set up a stronghold against your | adversaries,\*  
to quell the enemy and | the avenger.  
<sup>4</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,\*  
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,  
<sup>5</sup>what is man that you should be mind- | ful of him,\*  
the son of man that you should | seek him out?  
<sup>6</sup>You have made him but little lower | than the angels,\*  
you adorn him with glo- | ry and honor;  
<sup>7</sup>you give him mastery over the works | of your hands;\*  
you put all things un- | der his feet:  
<sup>8</sup>all | sheep and oxen,\*  
even the wild beasts | of the field,  
<sup>9</sup>the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,\*  
and whatsoever walks in the paths | of the sea.  
<sup>10</sup>O | LORD our Lord,\*  
how exalted is your name in | all the world!**

## Second Lesson - 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 Jesus' grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

Paul writes: <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia Verse

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.

### Holy Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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

<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 some 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

### Sermon

The Reverend Becky Cloud

silence for reflection

## Hymn of the Day

### Come, Join the Dance of Trinity



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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## The Creed

**P:** Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

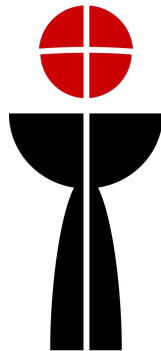
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## The Prayers

**A:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

- A: 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.**
- A: Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Help us protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: 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.**
- A: Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Help us provide for those who hunger, protect those in harm's way, and comfort any experiencing hardship. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Gracious God, we pray for the children of our congregation and community. Help us provide for their needs, support their caregivers, and nurture their faith. God of grace,  
**C: Hear our prayer.**
- A: Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal inheritance. Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**ALL: Amen**



## LITURGY OF THE MEAL

### The Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

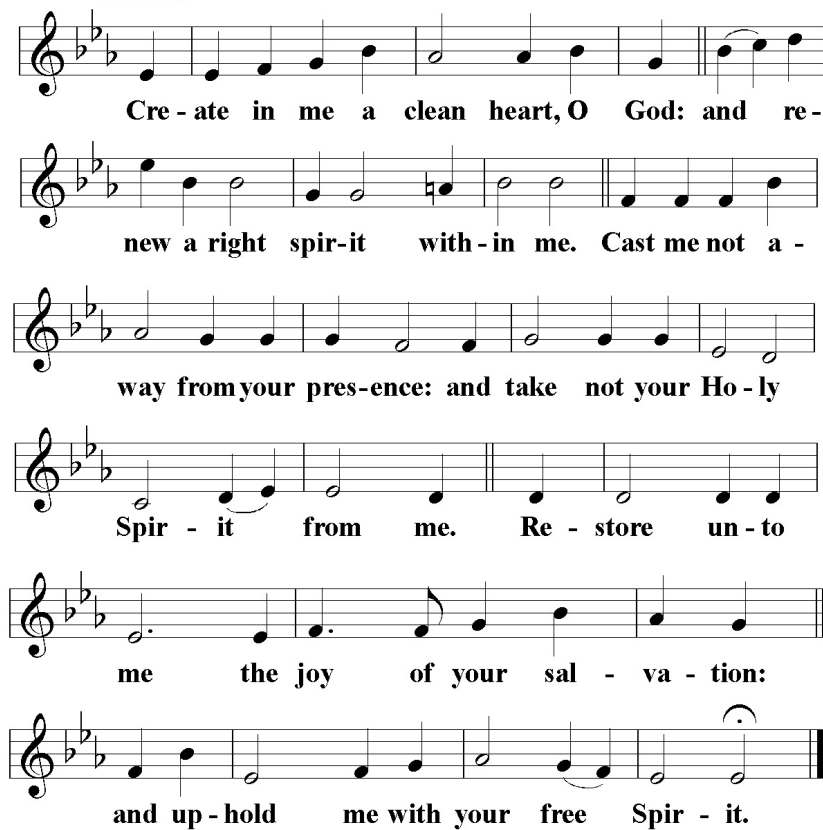
### Offering

Organ Offertory

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

arr. J. William Greene

## Offertory



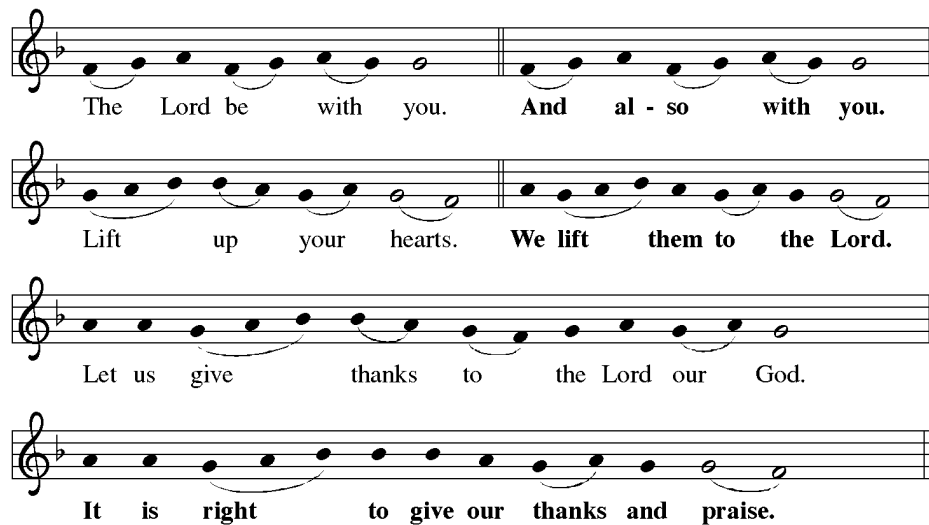
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to  
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

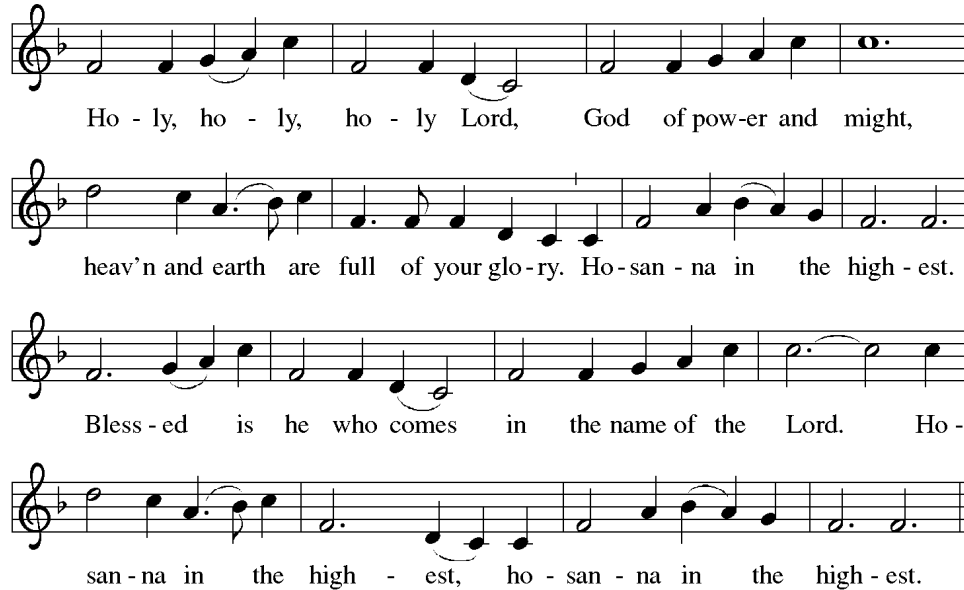


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.


## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**C: 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**

## Communion with our Risen Lord

### Agnus Dei



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.  
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: **Amen**

Post-Communion Hymn

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

***Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.***

## Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus the Christ, our servant Lord.

C: Amen

## Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. **A - men**

## Hymn

### Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900  
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

## Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Debra and Tom Schwab  
in memory of Tom's father, Robert O. Schwab.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Nancy and Mitch Overstreet  
in honor of the Holy Trinity Youth summer mission trip.

Our appreciation to The Reverend Becky Cloud for preaching and presiding at worship today.  
She is a retired United Methodist pastor who is active in the life of Holy Trinity.

Pastor Roberts is away this weekend to preside at a wedding.

| <b>THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY</b> |            |   |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|
| <b>Sunday,<br/>May 31</b>        | 8:30 a.m.  | Service of Holy Communion                             |
|                                  | 9:30 a.m.  | Holy Trinity Youth (grades three - twelve)            |
|                                  | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
|                                  | 11:30 a.m. | Salad & Ice Cream Sundae Luncheon                     |
|                                  | 3:00 p.m.  | Widows and Widowers Group                             |
| <b>Wednesday,<br/>June 3</b>     | 12:10 p.m. | Service of Holy Communion                             |
| <b>Friday,<br/>June 5</b>        | 9:00 a.m.  | Strength and Balance Exercise Class                   |
|                                  | 9:30 a.m.  | Chair Yoga Class                                      |
| <b>Sunday,<br/>June 7</b>        | 8:30 a.m.  | Service of Holy Communion                             |
|                                  | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
|                                  | 4:00 p.m.  | Art & Music Showcase                                  |
|                                  | 5:00 p.m.  | Holy Trinity Youth (grades three - twelve)            |

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**Our Mission:** "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1000 Langhorne Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

**Ministers:** The People of Holy Trinity

**President:** Deb Serio  
**Organist-Choirmaster:** J. William Greene  
**Parish Administrator:** Carol Dee Robertson  
**Parish Nurse:** Gail Midkiff

**Pastor:** Dennis S. Roberts  
**Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:**  
Susan H. Williams  
**Sextons:** Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington