



The Holy Trinity
Sunday, May 31st, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

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.

PRELUDE

BELL

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: I have shared your good news without restraint!

C: Go and make disciples of all nations!

P: I have spoken of your faithfulness to all!

C: Go and make disciples of all nations!

P: I have not concealed your love and salvation!

C: Go and make disciples of all nations!

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

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **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.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" (ELW 413)**

**1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

***GREETING:**

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

C: **Amen.**

KYRIE: *sung* (ELW pg. 213)

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: "*Glory to God*" (ELW pg. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,**

and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Almighty Creator and ever-living God:

C: 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

Please be seated

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.

Terri: ¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So 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. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Megan: ¹¹Then 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Emma: ²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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. ²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Terri: ²⁸God 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.” ²⁹God 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Megan: ^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ²On 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. ³So 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. Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 8 ~ Congregation reads the **bold**
How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

¹O 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.**

³When 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?**

⁵Yet 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:**

⁷all 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.**

⁹O 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:] ¹¹Finally, 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. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Here ends the second reading.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia" (ELW pg. 205)

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL READING: 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.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and 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...**Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" (ELW 579)

**1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,**

**may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: You reveal yourself to us, God, in many ways. Open our eyes to the wonder of new life all around us, and to your presence in everyone we meet. Risen savior,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: You long that we would reach beyond the bounds of our own familiarity and comfort, O God. Stretch our vision to encompass your whole earthly family and give us conviction to commit our lives to the service of all peoples and the preservation of all earthly life. Risen savior,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Unite all Christians and those of all faiths worldwide, regardless of denomination or affiliation, that our collective witness may stand as a powerful sign of your love in the world. Risen savior,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Bring hope out of despair, faith out of suffering, new life out of death. We raise up those of our community whom we know need special prayers, especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois,

Dale, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Allison, Becky, Kim, Cadence, Sara, Barb, Leroy, Karen, and Pete. Risen savior,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your saints are beloved to you because they remained steadfast, even through their own doubts. Encourage us to follow their example, that we might all be gathered together around your throne of mercy in the fullness of time. Risen savior,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands we place these things for which we pray, and all those things which our hearts cannot speak aloud. For you hold us in mercy and grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and Friend.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 217)**

**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**

***PEACE:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our communities and the world.

OFFERING HYMN: "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" (ELW 592)

- 1** Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 2** Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 3** Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

- 4** Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Merciful God,

C: Receive these gifts, O God, as a sign of our joy at your resurrection, and use them for the benefit of all people everywhere. Give us glad and generous hearts to serve you and to spread your word abroad. In our savior's name, we pray. Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER: *sung* (CLH 632)**

**Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

***LITANY:**

P: We have come to the mountain to meet Jesus.

C: But some of us still aren't sure.

P: After all, can someone really rise from the dead?

C: We want to believe it's true.

P: Now we are called to share this good news.

C: To show forth God's promises in our words and our actions.

P: But we get so caught up in our daily lives,

C: That we forget our one, simple job.

P: And anyway, sometimes we're still not sure.

C: And we would hate to be embarrassed if we have it wrong.

P: Jesus, reassure us with your presence,

C: That we might live out loud what you have done for us.

***BLESSING:**

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ
fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG: "Go, Make Disciples" x2 (ELW 540)**

**"Go, make disciples,
baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples,
for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth.
Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill,
so all can see that you're serving me.
Go, make disciples."**

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson	Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather	Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist	Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart	Sara Skoglund
Leroy Olson – father of Becky Arvidson	
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser	
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner	
Barb Peterson -friend of the Thoms	
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak	

Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Family and Friends of: Sarah Pomeranz, David Anderson, Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Alma Robinson, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Wayne Lund, Bruce Carter, Inez Nelson, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, and Kathy Wilkins

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, May 31st – The Holy Trinity

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

10 am – Worship led by Megan Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Sunday, June 7th – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Tuesday, June 9th

6 pm – Gift of Planning Event at Church – We will be grilling burgers and brats, so please bring a dish to share.

NEWS AND NOTES*

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for providing food for VBS.

What a Mess! VBS at Esther will be held June 14th -18th starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. Also

join us on Thursday June 28th for a potluck and short program. ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information contact the church office at secretary@estherlutheran.net. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun! **We could also use a few more volunteers for help crafts and activities – even if you are unable to make it we would love your help!**

Singles Share & Care Day will be Friday, June 19th. This will be a pontoon outing with Gene Ward through Let's Go Fishing. Rides will be offered at 10 am and 1:30 pm. We will meet for lunch at Interlachen Inn at 12:15 pm. There is limited seating on the pontoon so please RSVP as soon as possible. RSVP to Joyce Malmgren 320-815-4132 by June 16th with your name and phone number. All singles are welcome.



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

GIFT OF PLANNING EVENT

Join us at Esther on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 pm for an evening of food, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about planning for the future to provide the ultimate gift to yourself and your loved ones: peace of mind. What to expect:

- Representatives from Lind Family Funeral Home will guide us through end-of-life planning.
- Jewel Townsend will share a Funeral Planning Packet to help you document your wishes and personal story for loved ones.
- Christy Hart will offer practical tips for organizing financial and vital information, making it easier to access and understand—
both now and in the future.
 - We will be grilling burgers and brats, so please bring a dish to share as we gather for a meaningful and informative night.

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening!

Go to estherlutheran.com and click on “Esther Calendar.”

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God’s image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - “Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love”. If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA

11019 625th Ave, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 - Telephone:218-338-2171

Website:estherlutheran.com

Email: secretary@estherlutheran.net Facebook: facebook.com/estherlutheran/

Copy Right Permission From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. NL Worship Resources Copyright © 2026 Clergy Stuff™. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 738226A All rights reserved.” Permission to reproduce hymns obtained from ONE License 8 26 License #738226-A Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI, License # 2099169 All rights reserved.” Permission to reproduce hymns obtained from CCLI License # 20991626