

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

May 30-31, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday



THE HOLY TRINITY

THE BLESSED TRINITY

AS WE GATHER

We ponder today the great mystery of God—that God is one and that this one God is three persons. The liturgy in its proclamation focuses on the divine mystery of the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is not so much truth to be understood as it is truth to be confessed. We confess the Father from whom all things come, the Son who is the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit who proceeds from the Father through the Son. Throughout the centuries of the Christian Church, the confession of the Holy Trinity has been a hallmark of faithful believers. We sing of the Trinity and, with the profound words of the Athanasian Creed, we confess the Holy Trinity to be the one true God.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Holy, Holy, Holy" Robert J. Hughes

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" *LSB 507*

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **who created us from dust, redeemed us by His blood, and gives us saving faith. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 8:1; Genesis 1:3, 31*

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

People: **You have set Your glory above the heavens.**

Pastor: And God said, "Let there be light,"

People: **and there was light.**

Pastor: And God saw everything that He had made,

People: **and behold, it was very good.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God with our sins to acknowledge them before Him and in the presence of one another.

People: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have failed to be the people You have created us to be. We daily miss the mark of being very good, and we fail to be Your representatives in the care of Your good creation. With the early disciples, although we do believe, sometimes we doubt. Only by Your grace are we able to come before You and find peace and joy. Remind us of Your great love and mercy for us.**

Pastor: Jesus has joyful work for us to do. He has commanded us to go, teach, and baptize. And, despite our sins, He also promised, "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God's majesty is not only in creating the world in which we live but in loving us despite our daily failures. He sent His Son to forgive our every sin. As David wrote, "I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken" (Acts 2:25).

As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

Pastor: Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

People: **Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.**

Pastor: I have set the Lord always before me;

People: **because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

People: **my flesh also dwells secure.**

Pastor: For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

People: **or let Your holy one see corruption.**

Pastor: You make known to me the path of life;

People: **in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

People: **Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.**

KYRIE *based on Ephesians 1:4–5; John 3:16*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the creation of this world, which has turned its back on You,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the creation of all the wonders of this world, and having a purpose for all You have created,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For knowing us before You created us,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For redeeming us at the greatest cost to You,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For sending Your Holy Spirit into this world, and giving Him to us at our Baptism,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For using the Holy Spirit to make us Your own,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**



Pastor: As we consider all the times we have offended You, and You forgave us for Jesus' sake,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Continue to help, save, direct, comfort, and defend us.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "Come Thou Almighty King"

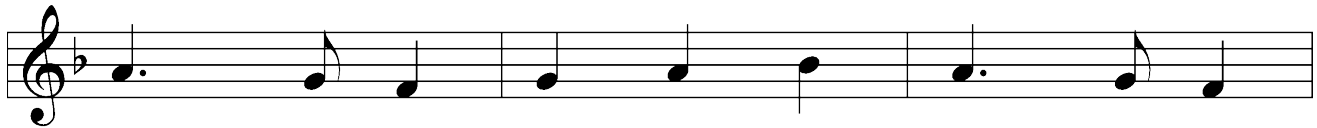
LSB 905
Verses 1-3



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are three persons yet one God. This is a mystery that is beyond our understanding. You ask us not to understand but simply

believe. Give us the faith of a child, that what You have said in Your Word about Yourself we may believe in our hearts and live out by faith in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, who is, and who is coming, the Almighty.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

(God creates all that exists.)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens 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. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, 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 the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Epistle: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

(Peter tells the Good News to those who crucified our Lord.)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.””

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

Alleluia — II

LSB 952



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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

(Jesus promises to accompany His followers.)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message (9:00)

Stephanie Roettjer

Hymn of the Day "Glory Be to God the Father"

LSB 506

Sermon "Let God Be God"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Athanasian Creed

(Worship Notes: A centuries-long tradition since the 7th century A.D. is to use the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday. Together with the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds it is one of the three great creeds that are believed and confessed by all Christian churches of every denomination, a true testament to the unifying work of the Holy Spirit which we celebrated last week on Pentecost Sunday. The content of the Athanasian Creed stresses that all members of the Godhead are considered uncreated, co-eternal and of the same substance. In the affirmation of the Trinity in this creed, the dual nature of Christ (both divine and human) is given central importance. Please note that the use of the word "catholic" in this creed does not refer to a particular denomination, but rather, the word catholic with a small "c" means the "universal faith" which has been confessed by the Church of all times and of all places.)

Pastor: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

People: **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**

Pastor: And the catholic faith is this,

People: **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**

Pastor: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

People: **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Pastor: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

People: **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

Pastor: the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
People: the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

Pastor: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
People: just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

Pastor: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
People: and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

Pastor: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
People: and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

Pastor: So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
People: and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Pastor: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
People: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

Pastor: The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
People: The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Pastor: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
People: And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

Pastor: but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.
People: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

Pastor: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

Pastor: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:



People: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

Pastor: equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

People: **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**

Pastor: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

People: **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

Pastor: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

People: **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**

Pastor: ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

People: **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**

Pastor: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

People: **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

**Offering (4:00 pm - collected in back;
9:00 am – collected in the pews)**

Offering Duet Music (9:00)

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Jenna Lawrenz & Christa Kirschner, vocalists
Diana Gaide, pianist



✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is good, right, and proper, almighty God, that we should give You thanks and praise for planning our salvation before we even knew of the need for it. We give You thanks for the ultimate sacrifice You made on our behalf by sending Your Son to the cross, in order that we might become blood-bought sons and daughters of the King. Therefore with angels and archangels and the entire host of heaven, we lift up Your name in song as we sing:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music (9:00) "Beautiful Savior" David Paxton

Hymn "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" *LSB 940*

Hymn "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" *LSB 805*

General Communion Blessing

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:23–26*

Pastor: When God gave Aaron and his sons the benediction, He said, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them.’” Receive, therefore, with believing hearts, the benediction of our God:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

LSB 793

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Johann Ludwig Adam



SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT / PREACHER

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

PIANIST

Diana Gaide

SOLOISTS

Jenna Lawrenz & Christa Kirschner

ELDERS

4 p.m. Jim Wert; 9 a.m. Bob Olsen

ACOLYTES

9:00 a.m. Maria Olson

LECTORS

4 p.m. Anita Baresel; 9 a.m. Rev. Ed Maas

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 p.m. Dick Castleman; 10:30 a.m. Margo Pasha

ALTAR GUILD

Laura Banko, Charmaine Rohde

✠ ✠ ✠

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