

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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June 3 & 4, 2023

The Holy Trinity

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Elena Holub

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

60 SECONDS OF STEWARDSHIP – Outreach Team

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors, first privately then publically together.

(Silence is for private confession.)

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #413 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"**

**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!**

CCLI Song #1156 Words: Reginald Heber Music: John Bacchus Dykes
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* **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.

* **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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2 and 2:1-4a

A Our first reading is from Genesis, chapter 1, verses 1-2 and chapter 2, verses 1-4a. *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.*

The reading begins:

Chapter 1:

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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.

Chapter 2:

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And 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. 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.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 8

A The Psalm today is Psalm 8. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

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

A Our second reading is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 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.

The reading begins:

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, 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. 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.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **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 St. Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16-20.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some 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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #412 "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"**

1. **Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun –
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.**

**The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their dance.**

2. **Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.**

**The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.**

3. **Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior's name.**

**We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!**

4. **Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.**

**Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.**

Text: Richard Leach Music: English folk tune Text ©2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

* **APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, you call the church to make disciples of all nations. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel and direct all the baptized into lives of humble service. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, you have given humankind authority over the earth. Raise up leaders who listen earnestly, speak honestly, and govern thoughtfully. Heal divisions between peoples, that we might agree with one another and live in peace. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, you set the earth on its axis, and we experience the seasons. Strengthen those enduring challenges this summer: those who suffer in the heat, parents overwhelmed by childcare responsibilities, and children experiencing food insecurity outside of school. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine and Sudan. Bring an end to all wars and the destruction of lives and your creation. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for the family and friends of Fran Gillett who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Morris Kethan; Peggy Geisler; Briana Bedford; Jaime Sawyer; Kenny Venghaus; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) God, in your mercy,
Kim Moerbe Welack; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Barbara Farley; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Kelsey Kethan McNeely; Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; and Courtney Busselman that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for:
Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; and Rita Noska that they receive your caring and compassion. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) God, in your mercy,

Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; Jan Willette and Terri Neuendorff, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez.

C hear our prayer.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

* **PEACE**

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

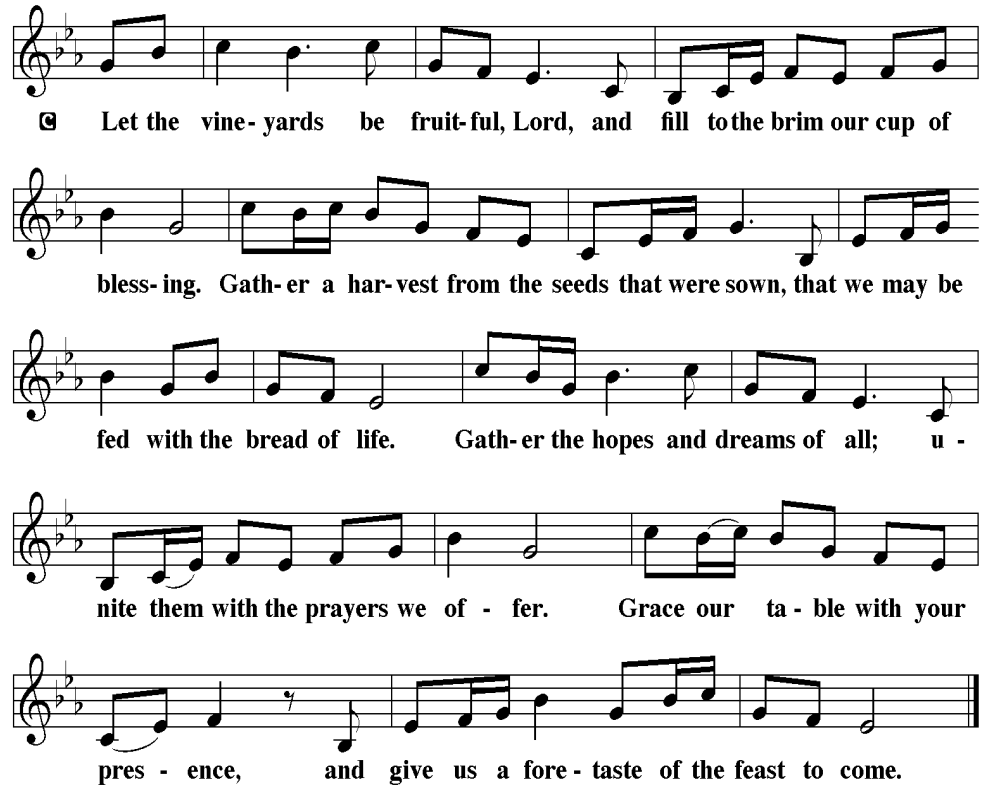
C And also with you. (*Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.*)

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

* OFFERTORY (Sung)



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 dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

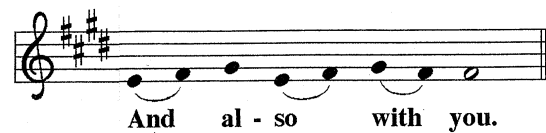
* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us and the gifts you gave us to share, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

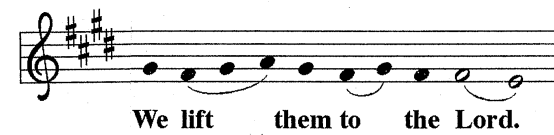
* GREAT THANKSGIVING (Responses Sung)

P The Lord be with you.



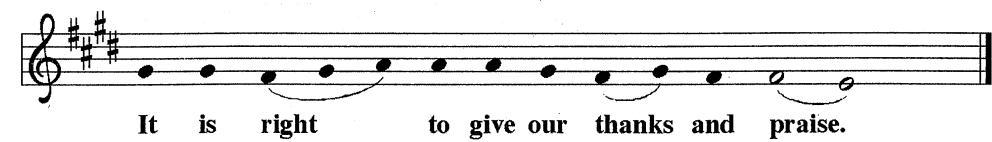
And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



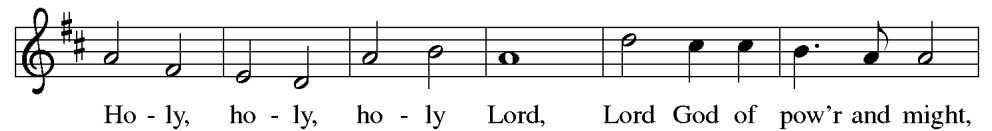
We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

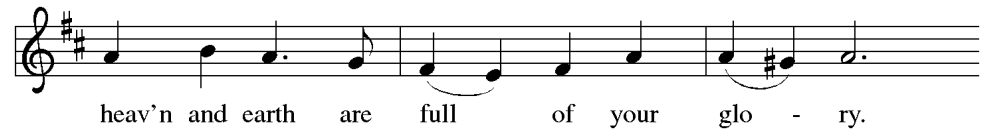


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

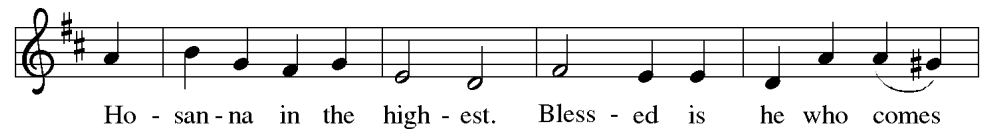
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



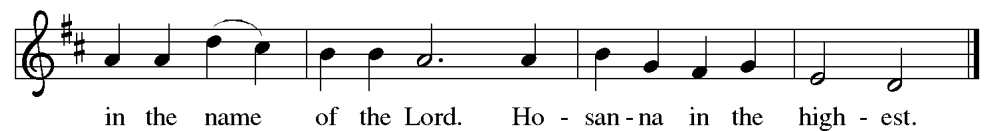
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come and receive.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Kneeling at Rail)

*{You will be coming forward to the rail for distribution. **All are welcome for communion.** You will be ushered down the center aisle beginning in the front. Fill in at the railings starting at the side and work your way around to the center, then kneel if you are able. Pastor will hand out the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please."*
Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. An acolyte follows with an empty tray for you to place your empty individual cup. After receiving communion, please remain at the rails until Pastor has dismissed the entire table with a blessing. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

* **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW – #414 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”**

1. **Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.**

2. **Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord!”**

3. **Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.**

4. **Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you
and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.**

CCLI Song #114555 Words: Clarence Augustus Walworth Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774
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* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace with the power and work of the Trinity.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank

SUN: Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Marilyn Yearwood

LAY READERS: SAT: JoAnn Venghaus

SUN: David Johnson

ACOLYTES: SAT: Gracelynn Gorman

SUN: Calleigh Barrett

STREAMING:

SUN: Tiffany Lauzon

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Ripper and Carol Lighthill

WELCOME: This weekend we celebrate the Holy Trinity, so, fittingly, we welcome you to worship in the name of God the Creator, Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit, who sustains our faith and empowers us for discipleship. Amen.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by David and Sharon Johnson in thanks for God's many blessings and in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 6.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes “Power of One” dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: May 27 & 28, 2023 – 208

Contributions: May 27 & 28 – \$4,580.03

Power of One: May 27 & 28, 2023 – \$48.00

Building Fund: May 27 & 28 – \$246.25

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.**

Thank you! ☺

Attention Graduating Seniors and Current College Students: This is a reminder that if you are planning to or are currently pursuing a degree in education *or* nursing, you are encouraged to apply for the Frank & Ann Derr Scholarship here at St. Paul. For an application, please see Ms. Stephanie or stop by the church office. Complete your application and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

NOTICE!! Summer office hours for Stephanie Polasek, Youth & Family Specialist, are Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please make note of this change for the summer especially when scheduling any office appointments.

**** Colorado County Senior Connections ** –**

A place for Seniors, 65 years and older, to socialize with others.

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, the group will meet at the Stafford Opera House – Columbus in the Buddy Rau Room from **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.** Lunch will be provided. Various activities will include: Card games/board games; Bingo; Movies; Educational Speakers; Field trips; and Social gathering time!

◆ Our **Peru Mission Trip Team** will be having a **drive-thru dinner fundraiser** on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023** at The Lighthouse from **5:00-7:00 PM.** The menu will be: hamburger steak, twice baked potatoes, corn casserole, broccoli salad, dinner roll, and banana pudding. *Tickets are \$13 and pre-sale ONLY.* Tickets are available for purchase from any Peru Team member or in the church office. **Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 7, 2023.**

**** Senior Explorers!! Get Ready for Some Blue Marlin Fishing in Cabo, San Lucas! ****

Join us **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** (this is a date change) for the movie “Blue Miracle” in **The Lighthouse at 10:30 AM.** *A lunch will be served following the movie.* The movie is about Papa Omar and his kids that partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a lucrative fishing competition to save his orphanage. For questions, please contact Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 18, 2023.**



Senior Explorers are going on a cruise! We will **depart** from St. Paul at **7:30 AM** on Thursday, July 6. We will board the ship before 10:00 AM for a 90-minute Sam Houston Boat Tour. It will be a narrated, educational ride along the Houston Ship Channel. There is an outside deck and inside air conditioned area. Free tour and ride. One free beverage provided mid-cruise. Walkers are OK. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED.** You may bring water, but you cannot bring any other food or drink on board. We will stop for lunch on the way home and expect to be home about 3:00 PM. **We currently have 24 spots reserved.** **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, July 2, 2023.** Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for “Stellar” VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

● **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** To help defray the cost, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We served about 200 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS last year. If you would like to help, you can either give a **monetary donation or donate specific food items.** For monetary donations, an envelope will be on the table in the narthex (foyer) that can be placed in the offering bowl. If you wish to donate specific food items, just pull a slip off the board and **return it with the donation on the date**

specified to the St. Paul Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Each donation is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week**. Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library**. For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Mon., June 5 –	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting 1:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to TLC 6:00 PM – Evangelism Team (library) 6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
Tues., June 6 –	9:00 AM – Pastor Alan to Deanery 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library) 6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering
Wed., June 7 –	9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
Thurs., June 8 –	1:00-2:30 PM – Summer Craft Camp (Lighthouse) 5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)
Fri., June 9 –	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., June 10 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., June 11 –	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship 12:30 PM – Pre-K Water Day (church lawn)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, June 5, 2023 Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.

Friday, June 9, 2023 Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter. From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

SERVICE 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 worshipping 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.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Every time we worship, we praise our triune God. Today is special, though, because our full focus rests on contemplation of the mystery of the three-in-one God. Welcome to Trinity Worship! Learn about and receive the blessings that the Trinity gives.

When we notice the world around us, we engage the work of the Trinity. God put us here to witness creation but also to enable and assist it. We are here to notice each thing so the holiness of each thing gets appreciated. How do we as a community of faith engage in the ministry of "noticing"?

Healthy relationships require space to flourish. What God has created gives us holy space. Holy space bears the mark of God, or the life of God. We, as the people of God, created by God, have a worth and beauty and dignity befitting a holy space. If we think of worship as a marker of holy space, we can see how it serves to foster re-creative relationships with God and one another. We are called to bring that holy space out of our worship and into our world. Our holy practices of understanding, kindness, and willingness to help must extend, *in word and deed*, very specifically to those ‘others’ that we as a particular faith community may not currently love but with whom we share “holy space”. Using the Trinity as a model, how are you inspired to extend kindness toward the ‘other’ in your neighborhood or community?

The Genesis reading states: “*Let us make humankind in our image.*” Think about this passage when considering hospitality and welcome to all. We are to recognize God’s image in every person we meet. As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity, also we celebrate the mystery of the intricacies of all of creation, whether it is the weeds growing up through the cracks in our driveways or the rolling pastures with cows grazing. God’s fingerprints are everywhere.

KID STUDY:

Today we learn about the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As simple as that sounds, the Trinity is hard to understand. It is a *mystery* to us - something we can think about and wonder about. People have used many different things to try and help explain what the trinity is. Today, let’s think about the Trinity as an egg. It is made up of three parts: the shell, the white, and the yolk, but all together it is ONE egg. In the same way, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons but only ONE God. Mystery solved? Not really. There is so much to learn about and wonder about God that we will never solve that mystery!

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

Only material bodies fill or occupy material space. The Godhead is beyond all space; let no one seek the Godhead as though it were in space. Everywhere the Godhead is invisible and indivisibly present. Who can comprehend this? What then are we to say of God? For if you have grasped what you wish to say, it is not God. If you had been able to comprehend it, you would have comprehended something else in the place of God. If you had been almost able to comprehend it, your mind has deceived you. It is not God, if you have understood it. But if it is God, you have not understood it. - Augustine [Augustine, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, III, 75-76.]

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Next Week's Theme (June 10 & 11): Jesus came to call sinners, heal the sick, bring back to life the dead

Next Week's Scriptures (June 10 & 11):

First Reading: Hosea 5:15--6:6

“God desires steadfast love.”

Psalm: Psalm 50:7-15

“Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God.” (Ps. 50:15)

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

“The promise to those who share Abraham's faith.”

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

“Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter.”