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May 31, 2026 at 9:30am

The Holy Trinity. *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.*



GATHERING

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God
Holy, Holy, Holy

Wayne L. Wold
Charles Callahan

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

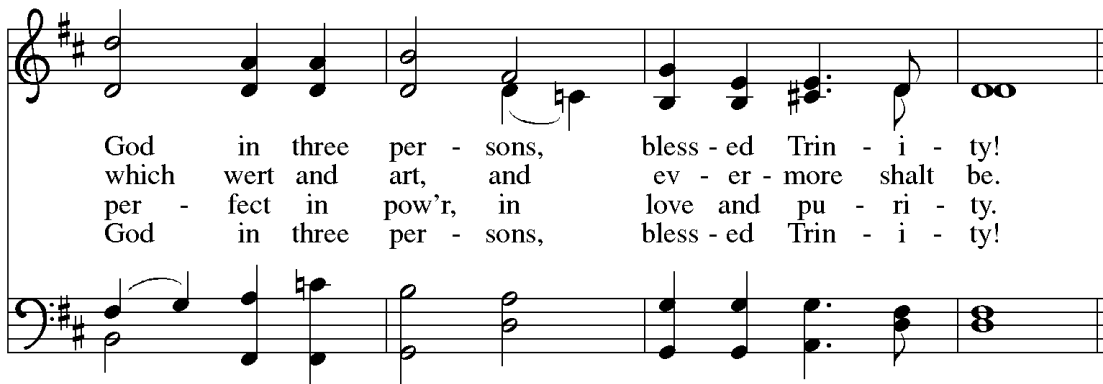
Gathering Hymn 413

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

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 of sin - ful - ness 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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: *Gloria to God*



1. Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise;
 2. Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3. A - lone, O Christ, you on - ly are the Lord,
 of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
 you bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 at God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
 We wor - ship you, to you our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,
 Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 re - ceive our pray'r, grant us your peace with - in
 with all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Text: Edwin LeGrice, based on *Gloria in excelsis Deo*
 Music: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949

WOODLANDS
 10 10 10 10

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**



Sit

WORD

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.

A reading from Genesis. ¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let

them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from

all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

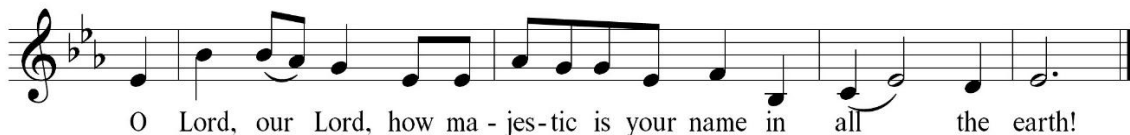
^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8

Choir sings the refrain and all repeat it.

Verses are sung choir/**congregation**.



¹ O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

² **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens**

out of the mouths of infants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies,

to silence the foe and avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴ **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**

human beings that you should care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor or you crown them.

⁶ **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**

you have put all things under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸ **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**

and whatever passes along the paths of the sea. REFRAIN

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.

A reading from Second Corinthians. [Paul writes:] ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

All sing the Alleluias; Choir sings the Verse.



Holy, holy, holy is the ^l Lord of hosts; all the earth is full ^l of God's glory. (Isaiah 6:3)

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day 579

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Stanzas 1, 3, 5 – All St. 2 – Women St. 4 – Men All sing the refrain.



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Reception of New Members

Apostles' Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

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

Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Provide for all who hunger. Protect those in harm's way. Comfort any experiencing hardship.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the children of our church and community. Provide for their needs. Support their caregivers. Nurture their faith.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal promises. Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Stand

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

Choir

Sarah R. Lambrecht, 2025

*O God of music, art, and word, of painted sky and hummingbird,
you call creators in your world to use our gifts for you,
to color, sculpt, compose a line, faint echoes of divine design,
that move the spirit, stir the mind, and turn the eye to you!*

*Unleash, O God, these gifts of grace! May we compose in time and space
a thousand ways to paint your praise, creations made for you.*

*You made the mountains and the sea. With just a word, they came to be!
And then you gifted us that we could be creators too.*

*You grace mere mortals with the skill to craft and dance, compose and build
with clay and chord, with rhyme and quill, our finest works for you.*

*The gospel glows when clothed in art! Through poem and song, the Spirit sparks
the fire of faith within the heart, a soul in tune with you.*

*The arts explore the mysteries, unlock profound epiphanies,
make visible what can't be seen. Their power comes from you.*

Text by Laurie F. Gauger, 2019

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

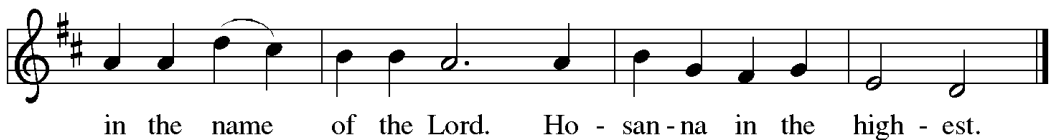
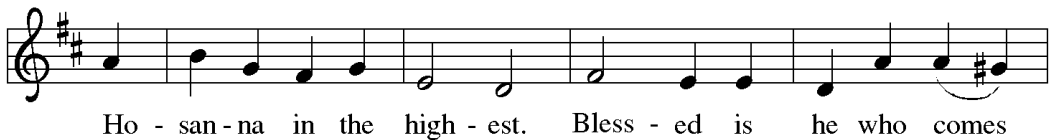
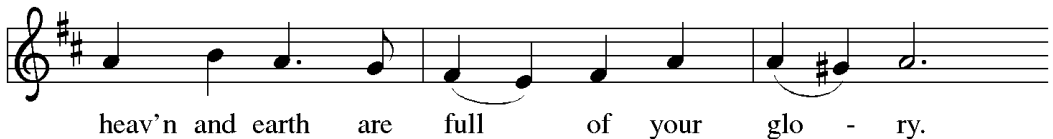
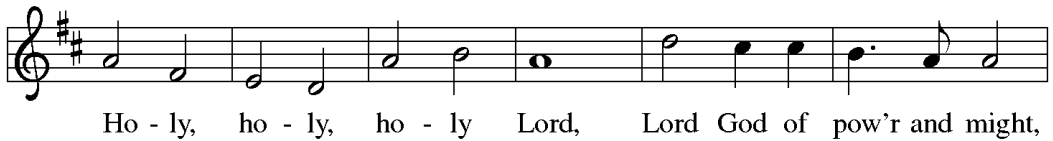
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

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

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Invitation to Communion

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 450

I Bind unto Myself Today



1 I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name



of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion



of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.



2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, by pow'r of
3 I bind un - to my - self to - day . . the vir - tues



faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, his bap - tism in the
of the star - lit heav-en, the glo - rious sun's life -



Jor - dan Riv-er, his cross of death for my sal - va - tion, his
giv - ing ray, . . the white - ness of the moon at e - ven, the



burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, his rid - ing
flash - ing of the light - ning free, the whirl - ing



up the heav'n - ly way, his com - ing at the
wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the



day of doom, I bind un - to my - self to - day.
deep salt sea, a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.

4 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

5 I bind un-to my-self the name, the strong name of the

Trin-i-ty by in-vo-ca-tion of the same, the

Three in One and One in Three, of whom all na-ture has cre-

a-tion, e-ter-nal Fa-ther, Spir-it, Word. Praise to the

Lord of my sal-va-tion; sal-va-tion is of Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. Patrick, 372-466; para. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
 Music: ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE, sts. 1-3, 5: Irish melody. DEIRDRE, st. 4: Irish melody

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 851

When In Our Music God is Glorified



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
moved us to a more pro - found
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
sing, for whom he won the fight:
give us faith to sing al - ways:

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Trumpet Tune

John Stanley

Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall following worship.



Niurys Rivera Machado is a Cuban painter who has done an interesting take on Rublev's (circa 1360s-1430s) famous painting "Trinity." It is based on the story of Abraham and Sarah whose hospitality welcomed three unknown guests (Genesis 18:1-8). Christians first claimed the unknown guests are 'angels unawares' (Hebrews 13:2 "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.") In medieval times, Rublev invited Christians to see the three guests as the blessed Trinity. The message is this: When we are hospitable and welcoming of the stranger in our midst, we welcome the Triune God." Niurys Rivera Machado

shows the co-equal sharing of the Trinity (look at what each person is holding). Also notice where they are sitting. They are seated at the end of the banquet table so that there is plenty of room for us to join them in the feast of the universe.

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.

I WONDER WHAT THE HOLY TRINITY DID BEFORE CREATION.

TED, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET ANYTHING OUT OF THAT KIND OF SPECULATION.

YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ALL OF ONE MIND AND WILL...

SO CHARADES WON'T WORK AND POKER IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

GENESIS 1

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

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DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD THAT THIS READING IS BASICALLY JUST THE "SINCERELY YOURS" PART OF A LETTER?

YEAH - BUT IT SHOWS THAT THE EARLIEST CHRISTIANS UNDERSTOOD GOD TO BE A COMMUNITY OF THREE PERSONS.

YOU GOT ALL OF THAT OUT OF "SINCERELY YOURS?"

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

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"SOME DOUBTED"? ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? JESUS IS ALIVE, HE'S STANDING RIGHT THERE!

THEY WERE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

THE RESURRECTION WAS OVERWHELMING AND MORE THAN THAT, JESUS RETURNS THEIR FEAR AND BETRAYAL WITH FORGIVENESS THAT FLOWS FROM HIS LOVE WITH THE FATHER AND THE SPIRIT. IT'S MORE THAN THEY EVER EXPECTED.

WOW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

YES, JUST LIKE THAT.

MATTHEW 26:16-20

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

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Commemorations this Week

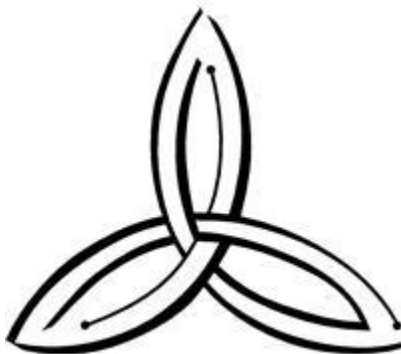
Sunday, May 31 Visit of Mary to Elizabeth This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Monday, June 1 Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165 Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

Wednesday, June 3 The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886 On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

Wednesday, June 3 John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963 When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

Fri., June 5 Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, d. 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.



Mission Partners

In Matthew 28:16-20, often referred to as “The Great Commission,” Jesus officially charges his disciples with tasks of teaching, discipling, and baptizing people of all nations and groupings. An assigned task or mission is the classic sense of the word *commission*. But what if we also considered Jesus’ charge to his disciples a *co-mission*—a mission together?

In John’s gospel, Jesus speaks plainly to the disciples about participating in, continuing, and even expanding upon Jesus’ work. Here in Matthew’s gospel, the resurrected Jesus declares his cosmic authority, having triumphed over even death, and then he immediately turns around to share that authority with the disciples. Their mission is Jesus’ mission: to build an inclusive community of compassion, mercy, and healing.

The work of Christ is shared work. We share it with one another, and we share it with Christ himself. The call to discipleship is always a community endeavor. In the liturgy for baptism, the gathered assembly affirms the newly baptized, saying, “We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world”

Not one of us is tasked with saving the world by ourselves. Only Jesus could and would bear that responsibility, and even he chose to invite others into the work. It is by grace that we are counted among Jesus’ disciples. And it is within the community of grace that we continue to proclaim and manifest God’s kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. We look to our community of faith for support, assurance, assistance, and solidarity as we partner with Christ and one another to bring God’s good news to the world.

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