



Sunday, May 31, 2026

10:00 a.m.

## The Holy Trinity



“It’s Complicated”

Pastor Erik Allen

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Prelude**

“Partita on Holy, Holy, Holy”

Piet Post

**Announcements**

**Worship Volunteer Recognition**

## GATHERING

**Song**

Majesty

**Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 8)*

P: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: **We come to worship the God whose glory fills heaven and earth.**

P: Though we are small in the grandeur of creation, God remembers us and cares for us with steadfast love.

C: **We come trusting the God who crowns humanity with dignity and purpose.**

P: God has entrusted us with the care of creation—earth, sea, sky, and every living thing.

C: **We come seeking wisdom to serve as faithful stewards of God’s world.**

P: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: **Let us worship and praise God together!**

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

C: **And also with you!**

*(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)*

**Song**

Good, Good Father

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

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 of the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray: God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*please be seated*

### **WORD**

**Lesson** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

**Gospel** Matthew 28:16-20

### **Gospel Response**

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message** Pastor Erik

**Sermon** "It's Complicated" Pastor Erik

**Hymn** Go to the World ACS 991

### **The Nicene Creed**

C: **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light  
from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with  
the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became  
incarnate from the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He  
was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## **Offering**

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



**Offering Response**      Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty      ELW 413  
(vs 1)

## **Offering Prayer**

**P:**    Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**C:**    **Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church** (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Anita, Sue, Bob, Amy, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Janell, Anna, Richard, Kathy, Jessie, Adelyn, Kipp, Dale, Melanie, Charles, Chuck, Mary, Carol, Bob

*Our sympathies are extended to Randy Poisel on the loss of his uncle,  
Delbert Gangwer*

## COMMUNION

### Words of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer

**C:** 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!

#### Invitation to Communion

**P:** Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*please be seated.*

#### Distribution

*All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.*

## SENDING

#### Blessing

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

#### Song

Sing Wherever I Go

#### Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

#### Postlude

"Fanfare on Holy, Holy, Holy"

Benjamin Culli

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Youth Group Mission Trip Envelope Fundraiser!**

It's easy. Simply stop by the bulletin board near the entrance and take an envelope with a number on it. The number matches the monetary donation you will give, example...envelope 7 is a \$7 donation. You are welcome to give more than the total on the envelope! The money is used to support the youth mission trip costs. Please return all donations by June 1<sup>st</sup>. If giving online (<https://kogcarmel.org/give>), please note "Youth Envelope Fundraiser and include your envelope number". We ask that you use the numbered envelope or ensure the number is indicated so we can account for all envelopes. Thank you for your support of our youth mission trip!

### **Silverbox Deliveries June 19-20**

We are starting to collect our usual items for our next Silverbox Delivery Ministry. Please bring cereal, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter as your budget allows. Thank you!

### **Carmel Marathon**

Thank you to all who helped at our station for the Carmel Marathon.

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## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

### **Theme of the Week: The One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

Holy Trinity Sunday celebrates the mystery at the heart of Christian faith: one God, known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We do not confess the Trinity because we have mastered God or explained away the mystery. We confess the Trinity because this is how God has chosen to be known: the Father creates and loves, the Son redeems and reconciles, and the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy. The doctrine of the Trinity is not a puzzle for the mind alone. It is a confession of the God who comes near in grace. The God who is beyond all human comprehension has made God's own self known in Jesus Christ and continues to draw us into faith through the Spirit. We are baptized into this holy name, gathered into Christ's body, and sent into the world to bear witness to the love that is from the beginning and without end.

### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-15 Nicodemus and the Light**

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. He is curious, drawn by the signs Jesus has done, yet still uncertain and afraid. In the darkness, he asks the question that echoes through every human heart: How can new life begin? Jesus does not offer him a program of self-improvement or a ladder by which he can climb closer to God. Jesus speaks of birth from above, of water and the Spirit, of a life that only God can give. This is Good News for us. Faith is not something we manufacture by our own strength. New life is the work of the Spirit. Through water and the Word, God gives birth to us anew and joins us to Christ. The Spirit draws us out of darkness, not by shame, but by mercy. The same Jesus who speaks to Nicodemus in the night is lifted up for the life of the world, so that all who trust in him may have eternal life. *Lord Jesus, meet us in the places where we are uncertain or afraid. By your Spirit, bring us into the light of your mercy and make us new. Amen.*

### **MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 Truly Human**

When we consider the vastness of creation—the moon, the stars, the heavens, the oceans, and all living things—we may feel small. Compared to the cosmos, human beings seem fragile and tiny. Yet the psalmist marvels that God is mindful of us. God does not overlook the small, the weak, or the vulnerable. Even the voices of infants and children bear witness to God's praise. Psalm 8 teaches us to see humanity through the eyes of God. Our worth does not come from power, achievement, status, or control. Our dignity comes from God. In Christ, we see the fullness of what it means to be truly human. Jesus is crowned through the self-giving love revealed in the cross and resurrection. All things are placed under his wounded and risen feet, and in Him we are set free to praise God and serve our neighbors. *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Teach us to honor your creation and to see every person as beloved in your sight. Amen.*

### **TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 11:33-36 Theology and Doxology**

“From him and through him and to him are all things.” Paul's words remind us that theology and worship belong together. To know God is to be drawn into praise, and to praise God is to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of who God is. As Christians, what we teach is never meant to be cold speculation. It is meant to lead us into wonder, humility, and gratitude toward God.

Indeed, the God we worship is not distant or abstract. The God we confess as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the God who creates, redeems, sustains, forgives, and gives life. We do not discover this God by human wisdom alone. In Christ, God is made known and through the workings of the Spirit. The depth of God's mercy is greater than we can comprehend, and yet this mercy has come near to us in Jesus. *Eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, receive our praise. Draw our minds and hearts into wonder and teach us to live in gratitude for your mercy. Amen.*

### **WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 18:30-32 Dying to the Old Life**

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God speaks a word of both warning and mercy: “Turn, then, and live.” God takes no pleasure in death. God does not delight in destruction, punishment, or despair. God's desire is life. The call to repentance is therefore not a threat meant to drive us away from God. It is an invitation to return to the One who longs to give life. As such, repentance is more than feeling sorry. It is a turning from the old life and being drawn into the new life God gives. We turn away from sin, from the ways we harm ourselves and others, from the patterns that harden our hearts, and from the false gods that promise security but cannot save. Yet even this turning is not something we accomplish alone. In Christ, God gives us a new heart and a new spirit, and by grace, the Spirit forever leads us into the way of life. *Merciful God, turn us from all that leads to death. Create in us clean hearts, renew us by your Spirit, and lead us in the life of Christ. Amen.*

### **THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20 Baptismal Name**

Jesus sends his disciples into the world with a promise and a command: make disciples, baptize, and teach. The church does not go into the world by its own authority or strength. Christ says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to

me.” As followers of Jesus, we can boldly say our mission belongs to Jesus before it belongs to us. In baptism, we are marked with the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This name is not a label we earn. It is a gift. In the waters of baptism, God claims us, joins us to Christ’s death and resurrection, forgives sin, and welcomes us into the body of Christ. As the church teaches and baptizes, Christ is present. As the church serves and witnesses, Christ is present. As the church stumbles and is renewed, Christ is still present, promising, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” *Lord Jesus, keep us rooted in the promise of baptism. Send us into the world with humility and courage, trusting that you are always with us. Amen.*

**FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 13:14 Grace, Love, and Fellowship**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” This greeting is familiar to many of us, but its importance comes from the way it reminds us that we do not enter God’s presence as strangers or outsiders, but as people welcomed by grace. In the name of the Triune God, we confess our sin and receive forgiveness. In that same name, we hear the Word, gather to receive the gifts of grace experienced in Communion, and are sent in peace. The church is not created by shared preferences or agreements, but rather by God’s grace, and is held together by the Spirit’s communion. It is Christ’s body brought into fellowship, not to erase our differences, but to draw us into the love of Christ, where we are shaped for service. As we gather, let us remember the many gifts and differences that are all gathered for service in Jesus’ name! *Holy God, let the grace of Christ, your deep love, and the communion of the Spirit be with us. Form us into a people of forgiveness, peace, and love. Amen.*

**SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 Last Thirst for God**

The psalmist cries out from deep trouble. Life feels crushed to the ground. There seems to be nowhere left to turn. Yet even there, the psalmist reaches toward God: “I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.” Psalm 143 gives us words for the moments when faith does not feel triumphant. Sometimes prayer is not polished or confident. Sometimes it is simply thirst. We reach for God because we have nowhere else to go, and because the God we seek is merciful. Here, the psalmist does not uplift their works, but God’s steadfast love. As Christians, that is where our hope rests, too. In Christ, God enters the darkness with us and leads us by the Spirit into the way of life. God hears the cries of the weary and does not abandon those who thirst for mercy. *Faithful God, hear our prayers when we are weary and afraid. In your steadfast love, lead us out of darkness and teach us to trust your Spirit’s guiding. Amen.*