

The Holy Trinity: Sun., May 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Hymns: 507, 940, 506, 617, 621, 631, 895; Liturgy: 208, 210

God's Definite Plan



There are times in our life when we have wondered if God cares about us or not. On this festive Sunday of Holy Trinity, we find the answer—yes! There has been a divine plan in place for this world. More than that, there is a divine plan and purpose for you. Listen to Peter's words carefully. As you do, you will hear Peter tell about God's definite plan for this world and His definite plan to redeem you and make you His child. Rejoice on this Trinity Sunday that God not only created you but has a definite plan for your life.

507 Holy, Holy, Holy *stanzas 1-3*



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,



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 man Thy glo - ry may not see,



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,



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.

Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, we are called to confess You as the God who has no equal;

C You are three distinct persons, yet one God.

P You are holy, we are not; You are righteous, we are not.

C Yet in Your foreknowledge, You knew this would be our state, and You made a distinct and definite plan for a way to redeem us from our sins: the sins of thought, which creep into our minds daily; our words, which deserve death because of the evil that comes from our tongues; and our deeds, which we know go against Your holiness. Forgive us, Lord, for these and all sins, not because we are deserving, but for Your definite plan of mercy and grace shown to us at the cross.

P I ask you before God, who searches all hearts, and one another, is this your sincere confession? If so, answer yes.

C Yes, this is my sincere confession before God and before my brothers and sisters in Christ.

P Hear the good news on this day! God has forgiven you all your sins because of the blood of Jesus shed at the cross. In the stead and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen! Thanks be to God for His mercy and grace!

P May God, who began this definite plan before He created the world, continue to work in you and bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Thank You, Lord, for loving us, forgiving us, and having a definite plan for us.

Kyrie *based on Ephesians 1:4-5; John 3:16*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P For knowing us before You created us,

C Lord, have mercy.

P For redeeming us at the greatest cost to You,

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For sending Your Holy Spirit into this world, and giving Him to us at our Baptism,
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For using the Holy Spirit to make us Your own,
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** As we consider all the times we have offended You, and You forgave us for Jesus' sake,
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Continue to help, save, direct, comfort, and defend us.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name *stanzas 1, 4-5*

1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet
 Δ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,
 bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,
 three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,
 All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,
 vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.
 bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.
 Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; Text and tune: Public domain.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray... Almighty God, there are days we do not even know what to plan for dinner. Yet You have had a definite plan for this world and each one of us before You created it. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to trust in Your plan of salvation through the cross and resurrection of our

Lord Jesus Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God and one Lord, now and eternally.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 6:1-8*

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Acts 2:14a, 22-36*

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, .

..
²²“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— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"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. ³⁰Being 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, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being 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. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

506 Glory Be to God the Father *stanzas 1-2, 4*



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to
 2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each
 4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of



God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
 spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,
 an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
 Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,
 Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!
 glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!
 glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89; Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865-1919; Text and tune: Public domain.

Sermon

Athanasian Creed

- L** Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.
- C** **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**
- L** And the catholic faith is this,
- C** **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**
- L** For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
- C** **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**
- L** Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
- C** **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**
- L** the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
- C** **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**
- L** And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
- C** **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**
- L** In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
- C** **and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.**
- L** So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
- C** **and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**
- L** So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
- C** **and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**
- L** 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.
- C** **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**
- L** The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
- C** **The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**
- L** Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
- C** **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**
- L** 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.

- C** Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.
- L** But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** 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.
- L** 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:
- C** perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
- L** equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- C** Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
- L** one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C** one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
- L** For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C** who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,
- L** 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.
- C** At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.
- L** And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- C** This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for planning and creating this world for us to inhabit. You have given us the stewardship of it. Where we have failed, forgive us. Give us wisdom to manage what You planned for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You cared for us with no guarantee we would ever love You back. You lived the perfect life we could not and suffered the death we are not willing to suffer for our sins. We can never repay You—all we can do is thank You, and so we do now. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Holy Spirit, through Your inspiration we have the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation in Jesus Christ. Yet without the faith freely given by You, we would not be able to believe. You keep us in that faith our entire journey on this side of eternity. We ask that You would rule our hearts and minds, and bring to our remembrance what the Scriptures say at just the right time. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We lift up those facing health challenges at this moment... Hear our petitions on their behalf. We ask that You use doctors and nurses, medicines and researchers, and, according to Your will, miracles, so those who have any dreaded disease might be returned to health to serve You. Heavenly Physician, we entrust them to Your care and will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your gracious and loving hands we commend all for whom we pray and those You know need our prayers, trusting in Your mercy; in the name of Jesus, with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, who was, who is, and who is coming, the Almighty.

C **Amen.**

Offering

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P 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 *LSB 208*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (stanzas 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546; Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *stanzas 1-2, 4*



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.; Tune: French, 17th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain.

631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face *stanzas 1, 3, 5, 7*



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righ - teous - ness;
 7 Feast af - ter feast thus comes and pass - es by,



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleans - ing blood;
 Yet, pass - ing, points to that glad feast a - bove,



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:
 Giv - ing sweet fore - taste of the fes - tal joy,



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
 The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
 Thy blood, Thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.
 The Lamb's great mar - riage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.; Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595-1662; Text and tune: Public domain.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction *Numbers 6:23-26*

P 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.

C Amen.

895 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav-en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; Text and tune: Public domain.

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