

# HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

St. John 8:58

“Jesus said to them “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

June 15, 2025

Worship Service 10:00 am

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *Come, Thou Almighty King* (ELW) No. 408

\*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise *This Is The Feast* (ELW) page 140

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to make the confession of a true faith. We acknowledge Your glorious eternal Trinity, and we adore the unity of Your majestic work. Defend us by this faith from all adversity and opposition to Your way; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.

**<sup>2</sup>Out of the mouth of babies and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

**<sup>4</sup>what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

**<sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

<sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**<sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

<sup>9</sup>O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Second Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words  
of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

John 8:48-59

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

(ELW) No. 413

Sacrament of Baptism for Jaxon Howard

(ELW) page 227 to 231

\*The Athanasian Creed

Insert

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) No. 27

\*The 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.**

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

(ELW) No. 502

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

\*The Benediction *(sung response)*

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

(ELW) No. 414

\*The Dismissal *(response)*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

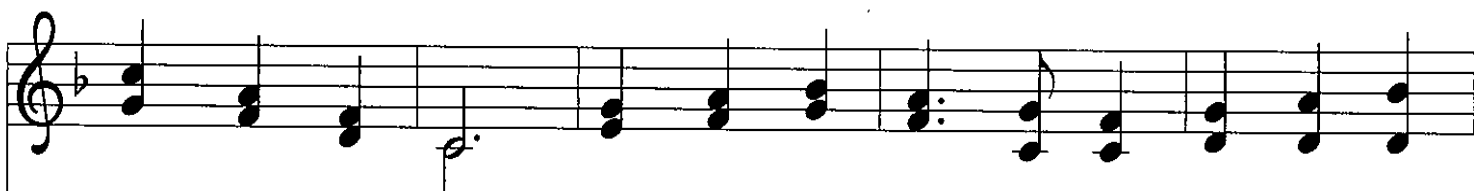
Postlude

# Come, Thou Almighty King

408



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;  
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;  
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in  
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.  
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



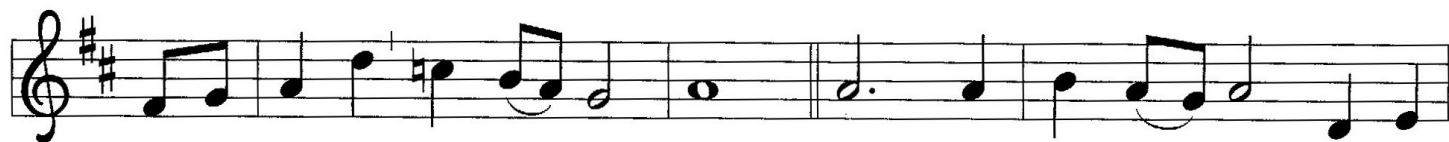
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



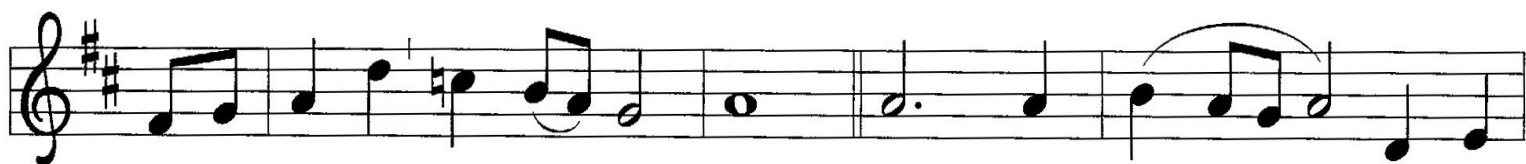
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## 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.

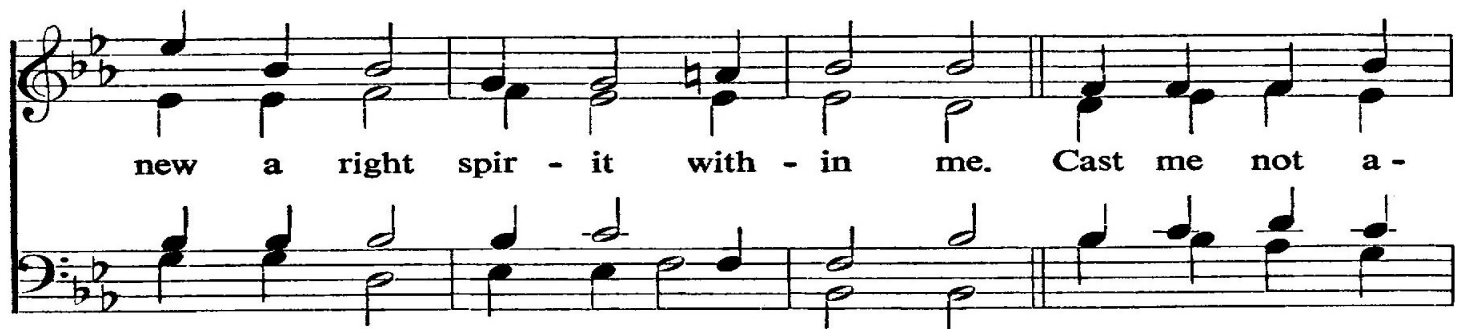
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

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!

## The Communion



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly



Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of



thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

## The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with harmonization in the other parts. There are some triplets and fermatas indicated in the score.

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear


fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.


- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

# Holy God, We Praise Your Name

414




1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
 and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to  
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Wesley Black on his graduation from high school, in honor of Nathaniel Black on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, in honor of Mark Black on Father's Day and in loving memory of my husband, Frank Black and my father, Bernard Killen on Father's Day. A Donation is made to the Restoration Fund by Kathleen Black.

**The Lay Reader** is Dennis Schmidt.

**Acolytes** are Julia Jeffcoat and Parker Lambert.

**Counters/Greeters** today are L. Coleman and S. Rea.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2025** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2025.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2025.** Please sign up.

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Isaac Christian, Tyler, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Judy, Brooke, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Linneise, Donna B., Karen John. Phyllis Daniels, Beckie Wood, Bridgette, Alex Houck, Stacy Carroll, Ron Erdmann & Belinda, James, Lori Mauer, John, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, the Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Pat Dupas, Gwen Roberts, Tammy, Judi, Larry Downing, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Jennifer Sasek, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Joe Kern, Lisa Wilds, Julia Jeffcoat, Richard Hager, Rob, John, Terri Newton, Holly Hiser, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, Eric Fritz, Terry Jurkovsky, Karen Dawson, Judd Lacko, Cadence, Sandy Mannsman, Robyn Cameron, Ian, Isaiah, and Alecia, Nettie Walsh and her parents and family, Greg Mason, Joanne Reck, Kenny and Josh, and Linda, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Thomas, Lowell, Matt S., Paula, Klaus and Mel Behrens, Kim, Alice Z. Lindsay Mankey, Apollos Yocca, Jackie, Diane Fisher, Mikao S, Joe McBride, Pastor Rob, Neil Bassi, and Roger C.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

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**Adult Sunday School** is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

**Bell Choir** rehearsal is Thursday at 7:00 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, [kbrgs1@gmail.com](mailto:kbrgs1@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Chess Club** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### Holy Trinity Sunday — June 15, 2025

*<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple."*

- John 8:56-59 -

Scripture does not give us a fully developed doctrine of the Trinity. Instead, Scripture gives us a Trinitarian problem, the solution to which is the doctrine of the Trinity developed three centuries later. The essence of the Trinitarian problem is a seeming conflict between two opposing claims. On the one hand, Israel had confessed for centuries that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4). On the other hand, certain passages in the New Testament suggest that Jesus Christ is also God. So, if God is one and if God is identified with the Father, how is Jesus also divine? On the other hand, if Jesus is indeed divine, then how is God one and not two? The doctrine of the Trinity arose to harmonize these competing claims while also integrating additional data regarding the deity of the Holy Spirit.

In our passage we see the type of claim that generated the Trinitarian problem. Jesus is arguing with certain Jews. When they questioned whether he was old enough to see or know Abraham, Jesus responded, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." That this was a claim to divinity follows from the fact that Jesus used the divine name "I am" from Exodus 3:14. And it is clear that these Jews understood it as such because they then picked up stones to kill Jesus.

Digging a bit deeper, we may wonder what the name "I am" says about divinity that makes it such an excellent divine name for God in the first place. In this regard, a central aspect of divinity is to exist necessarily and to exist without limit or change. Our passage brings this out by contrasting "was" with "I am", "before Abraham was, I am." After all, to say, "Abraham was," implies that he is not now. However, Jesus can say, "I am," with regard to the past, present, or future since the fullness of his necessary existence never diminishes or changes.

Because God has created time, he is neither contained by time nor excluded from it. Rather, as an infinite and eternal being, God enters into all times with the fullness of his necessary existence. In other words, God's eternal "I am" stands behind time, creates time for us, and then enters time to be with us in the fullness of his being. For this reason, God says, "I am," yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.