

**A Service of Holy Communion for
Trinity Sunday**
10:30 a.m. | May 31, 2026 | Year A



**University Lutheran Church 66 Winthrop St.,
Cambridge, MA**
unilu.org

PRELUDE “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” [HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND” — Tune from *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim (1628): Variations 1, 2, & 6; setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** (3x)

TRINITARIAN CALL TO WORSHIP

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Let us worship the Triune God.

**Let us worship the One
who spoke in the beginning
and created something out of nothing.**

Let us worship the Triune God.

**Let us worship the One
who took on the clothing of humanity
to set those who were oppressed free.**

Let us worship the Triune God.

**Let us worship the One
whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us from
sorrow-filled endings to bright new beginnings.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 527 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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 God's.

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.

Refrain

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 to reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

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

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.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷Jesus replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

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

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So God created humans in the divine image, in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them.

²⁸God 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.” ²⁹God 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.

³⁰And 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. ³¹God saw everything that had been 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. ²On the sixth day God finished the work that had been done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that had been done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation. ^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM ([see insert – click here](#))

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, my dear family, 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. 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16–20

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

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw Jesus, they worshiped him, but they 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.”

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

SERMON

Carrie Ballenger, Micah Barkoudeh, and Victoria Barkoudeh

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 946 “The Play of the Godhead”

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Micah and Victoria, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptisms.

Ann: I present Micah and Victoria, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. Who descended to the dead and on the third day rose again. Who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Micah and Victoria the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with the below (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

or

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God!

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

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Eye Has Not Seen” — Words and music by Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready
for those who love him; Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of
Jesus, teach us the wisdom of God.

When pain and sorrow weigh us down, be near to us, O Lord,
forgive the weakness of our faith,
and bear us up within your peaceful word.

Our lives are but a single breath, we flower and we fade,
yet all our days are in your hands,
so we return in love what love has made.

To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ever near,
reflected in the faces of all the poor and lowly of the world.

We sing a mystery from the past in halls where saints have trod,
yet ever new the music rings to Jesus, Living Song of God.

To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), please visit givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church or scan the QR code here:



Please visit unilu.org/giving if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . .
. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:



The thanksgiving may conclude:



LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using either the version printed in your bulletin or the version closest to your heart:

**God our Mother, God 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 RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

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

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ACS 948 “Womb of Life and Source of Being”

ACS 1096 “Joyful Is the Dark,” vv. 1,2,5

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING FOR OUR SANCTUARY

[\(see back of insert—click here\)](#)

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ACS 1005 “Ask the Complicated Questions”

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” [HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND” — Tune from *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim (1628): Variation 8; setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ARE ASKED FOR:

Cheri Agaskar — UniLu member

Polly Allen — UniLu member

Ellen Bartlett — sister of Gail Bucher

C. Paz Betancourt — mother of Ricardo Pulgar

Lorraine and Roland Blanchard — friends of Gail Bucher

Ed Bucher — UniLu member

Gail Bucher — UniLu member

Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb

Scott Evans — son-in-law of Nancy Gould

Bob Flannery — UniLu member

We pray with the friends and family of Turner Graybill at his passing.

Nancy Gould — UniLu member

Pat Hermann Bruntz — cousin of Imogene Stulken

Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould

Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy

Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken

Larry Nichols — UniLu member

The Ralston-Lamb family — UniLu members, especially at the death of Timothy Lamb

Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken

Phyllis Steele — UniLu member

Judee Tomlinson — aunt of Susan Worst

Julie Wilson — UniLu member

Carl Yanagawa — husband of Imogene Stulken's friend Sally Yanagawa

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

Serving the Community

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Katie Emmons, *Ministry Intern*

Ethan Strouse, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Holly Druckman, *Tech Verger*

Ann Ferentz, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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Serving Today

Presider: Carrie Ballenger; Assisting Minister: Katie Emmons;

Musicians: Imogene Stulken, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, Carrie Ballenger, and the UniLu Choir; Lector: Laura Tracey; Intercessor: Susan Worst;

Hospitality: Laura Tracey

Land Acknowledgment: *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*