

**SERVICE INFORMATION: May 31, 2026**  
**The Holy Trinity Sunday**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Ruth Antal  
SINGERS: Osthus.Reynolds  
READER: Joel Carrizales

**PRELUDE:** Ruth Antal

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 8*

*PASTOR: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*ALL: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*PASTOR: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

*ALL: what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*

*PASTOR: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*ALL: You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:*

*PASTOR: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

*ALL: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

**HYMN #134 “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**CONFESSION OF SIN:** *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in*

*thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ’s sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**PRAYER**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:**

**Reader: Joel Carrizales**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** *Genesis 1:1-2:3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he 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 an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. 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 expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from 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 water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the

birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

## Genesis 2

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

**EPISTLE LESSON:** Acts 2:22-36 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him: "'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' 29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the

*fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen

**GLORIA PATRI:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

**PRAISE SONGS:** picked out by Ruth Antal

**SERMON TITLE: "WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?" Matthew 28:16-20; Pastor Tom Olson  
May 31, 2026**

***Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen***

When a church is in a time of transition, like we are, there are questions that come to mind. One very important question is this, "WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?" Fortunately, Jesus answers that question very clearly right before he ascended into heaven.

As a church we can do what this Great Commission tells us and God will be pleased. Doing this is no guarantee our congregation will grow. That must never be the goal. Doing this is no guarantee anyone will become believers. That is not the motivation. But doing the Great Commission is what we are asked to do, no matter what the results. That is all that matters to God. We are not called to be SUCCESSFUL, but we are called to be FAITHFUL.

The first thing WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO is..

**I. CONNECT WITH JESUS**

***Matthew 28:16&17 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.***

DOUBTED: When Jesus ascended into heaven there were eleven disciples that were with him. This is pre-Pentecost so the Holy Spirit had not empowered them yet. You can see that in the phrase **“but some doubted.”** I can only speculate their state of mind, did they think Jesus was a ghost? Did they think they were hallucinating? Were they simply in a state of shock. I would lean toward that.

FEW: But they did the one thing that Jesus had told them to do and that was meet with him on the Mt. of Olives by Bethany. There were no more large crowds. There was no feeding of thousands of people. It was just eleven very confused men who had all their expectations fail and there was just one thing left to do...meet with Jesus.

POEM: It reminds me of the poem I like called “Wits End Corner.” I think this stanza explains the disciples’ experience:

*Are you standing at Wit's-End Corner  
Blinded with wearying pain,  
Feeling you cannot endure it,  
You cannot bear the strain?  
Bruised through the constant suffering,  
Dizzy and dazed and dumb?  
Remember — at Wit's-End Corner  
Is where Jesus loves to come.*

JESUS: What did Jesus do to keep ministering at “Wit’s End Corner?” **Mark 6:46 After leaving them, he went**

***up on a mountainside to pray.*** We saw last week that you can try to do the ministry in your own flesh, and that is exhausting and unhappy. Or you can do it in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is the place of joy, rest and eternal fruit.

FIRST: I have an old Bible that I used in seminary and I wrote the quote of a missionary in the front cover. Here it is, **“You can’t do anything until you pray first.”** Our first step is the prayer meeting...to seek the Lord. Between Saturday prayer meetings and Sunday morning prayer times we have had about 900 times of seeking the Lord in corporate prayer in the past eleven years. They have been some of the most special times in my ministry. Our recent Saturday morning prayer meetings have been powerful with people who have a deep thirst for connecting with the Lord.

The first thing we need to do is CONNECT WITH THE LORD. The second thing is very important...

## II. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR AUTHORITY

***Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.***

GRASP: Somehow, we need to grasp in the depths of our soul what Jesus is saying here. The key is acknowledging the three letter word A L L. God the Father has given God the Son ALL authority IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.

JIM: We saw that so powerfully in Jim Null. When Jim was diagnosed with serious cancer, he had to comfort the doctor who gave him the bad news. He said something like this, “Doc, don’t worry. God had this thing covered.” Jim was at peace because He knew that God had ALL AUTHORITY and God’s will would be accomplished. Without that knowledge his cancer would have crushed his spirit.

PRAYER: I like the way one of the written prayers in our funeral ceremony puts it. This prayer is for the grieving family, *“Grant them the grace to say with a believing heart ‘Thy will be done,’ and know that Thy will is a good and gracious will even now.”*

SPEAK: One thing we need to do is to speak the truth and think the truth, “Jesus has ALL AUTHORITY (some translations say ALL POWER) in heaven and earth. Jesus is my Lord and Savior. No matter what happens, if I obey His leading, the results are up to Him because He is ultimately in control.”

REALIZE: Once we realize, like Jim Null, that “God has got it covered,” we can relax and “let God be God” and trust Him. A firm grasp on the sovereignty of God leads to a peaceful and joyful life. Without this knowledge, life can be stressful.

SAME: The same God who supernaturally let Peter out of prison with the help of an angel is the same God who

was present with John the Baptist in prison as his head was cut off. In both cases God was sovereign. John will have a special place in the kingdom of God given to those who are beheaded for their faithfulness to Christ according to Revelation 20.

HELP: What is going to help us in this time of transition? It is a firm grasp on the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ has been given ALL AUTHORITY and it is His church and His perfect will is what we want. All we have to do it trust and obey.

Finally it is very important to...

### III. STICK TO THE ASSIGNMENT

***Matthew 28:19&20 Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

PRIMARY: This is our primary assignment, baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teach people to obey everything that Jesus has commanded us in the Word of God. Are we to sing songs? Are we to help the poor and needy? Are we to take care of widows and orphans? Yes, certainly. Those are things Jesus has commanded us to do.

**FOCUS:** However, however...our primary and fundamental task is evangelism and instruction, preach the gospel and preach the Word of God, baptize and teach. The target audience is ALL NATIONS. That would make church planting and world missions to be primary work for the church. God is glorified when we bring the gospel of Christ to the remotest parts of the earth.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** A church youth program is fine but we don't need to wait to have one in our church. We all have children, grandchildren and neighbor children that we can introduce to Jesus and teach the Word of God. That is why Child Evangelism Fellowship has backyard Bible clubs.

**INDIVIDUAL:** One of the most under rated and highly productive ways to evangelize and teach is one on one. It starts with prayer, it continues with building an honest friendship of trust, it continues with sharing your testimony and it hopefully develops into a chance to teach this person what you know about Christ's Word.

**ONE:** I am here today because a pastor took an interest in me and brought me one on one to special conferences when no other youth in the church wanted to go. I am interested in old tractors because a man with no sons took an interest in me one on one and took me with him to old farm tractor shows when my own dad was too busy trying to keep our family going.

**LARGE:** You don't have to be a preacher to thousands to fulfill the great commission. I talked to a pastor of a church of thousands who quit and went to a small failing church because he said he didn't even know the names of the people who went to his mega-church and he didn't feel it was a good system of discipleship. So instead, he chose to work with about five families. He asked me if I knew the names of the people who attended our church. I said I know their names, the names of their children and even the names of their dogs and cats. He smiled and said this, "That is the way it should be."

**SEED:** Remember again, God is not calling us to be successful. He is telling us to be faithful. Jesus gave the parable of the seed and soil. The seed, the Word of God is good seed. There are many kinds of soil. Jesus said that we must keep planting the good seed everywhere, even in the cracks in the rocks.

**NORTH SHORE:** If you drive along the north shore between Duluth and Grand Marais, it is very impressive to note the big trees that are growing out of the cracks in the hard rocks along the shore of Lake Superior. This is a reminder that sometimes the good seed of the gospel can bear amazing fruit when it falls into the most unlikely person's heart. Sometimes the best place to evangelize is the most difficult and dangerous neighborhoods. We can also share the gospel with the most unlikely person. Who knows if the Holy Spirit has not prepared them to come to Christ.

ALIVE: Nothing will make our church come alive better than lost souls getting saved and standing up to give testimony about what Jesus is doing in their lives. Bill Gaither's song says, "There's joy in the camp, a sinner has come home." This is my ongoing prayer to see at least one soul come to Christ each month. That will bring great joy into our camp.

So:

- CONNECT WITH JESUS
- ACKNOWLEDGE HIS AUTHORITY AND POWER
- STICK TO THE ASSIGNMENT of evangelism and instruction.

That is all God expects from this church. He doesn't expect success, just faithfulness. ***"And now may the peace of God, that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen"***

**HYMN #303 "O, Zion Haste"**

**CLOSING COMMENTS: Dave Fischer (Postponed)**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

**BENEDICTION**

**Hymn #251 (vs 1) "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"**

**POSTLUDE:** Ruth Antal