INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today’s second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  # 413

Printed on the next page.
Holy Trinity

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

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.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Stand
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.
KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE (hymn paraphrase of *Gloria in Excelsis*)

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
2 Glory be to Christ for ever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
Son of God and gracious Saviour, you have come from heav’n above;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit
At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God 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 a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 So 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. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

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

14 And 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, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the 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 waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” 21 So 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. 22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there
was morning, the fifth day.

24 And 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.

25 God 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.

26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind 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.”

27 So God created humankind in his image, 
in the image of God he created them; 

male and female he created them.

28 God 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.”

29 God 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. 30 And 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. 31 God saw everything that he had 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. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4a These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

A The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
SECOND READING

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ’s grace, God’s love, and the Spirit’s partnership.

A reading from Second Corinthians.

[Paul writes:] 11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

A The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu-ia! Lord and Saviour: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.
GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P  The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C  Glory to you, O Lord.

16.Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P  The gospel of the Lord.

C  Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON  Pastor Weleck

Stand

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles’ Creed during Lent and at other times.
NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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,
    was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
    who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
    who 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.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A We pray for the church, for its pastors and bishops, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.
Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.
Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts...
Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm’s way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.
Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C Amen.
LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

P 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

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Printed on the next page.
1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
   All on earth your scepter claim,
   All in heav’n above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim, sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord!”
   Prophets swell the glad refrain,
   Unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav’ns with set of sun through the church the song goes on.

3 Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain,
   Three we name you, though in essence only one;
   And the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to bend the knee while we own the mystery.

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim,
   Though in essence only one; first-born, pre-eminent, second, third, you are in one essence;
POSTLUDE:

+++  

The Time of the Church is the season after Pentecost, beginning with The Holy Trinity and ending with Christ the King. These weeks focus on Christ’s ministry and teaching.

The liturgical color white, symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ. Gold is a more festive version of white.