

THE HOLY TRINITY

May 30, 2021

INTRODUCTION

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

God calls us together in worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship God, shaper of creation,

Who was and who is and who is to come, the Almighty.

We follow Jesus, Love incarnate,

Who was and who is and who is to come, the Almighty.

We trust in the Spirit, breathing life into us,

Who was and who is and who is to come, the Almighty.

We believe in God our Creator, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Almighty God, in whom we have eternal love and life.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways

of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*, ELW
413**

GREETING

In the name of our Triune God, the grace of our Creator-Father, the love of our Redeemer-Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Sustainer be with you all.

And also with you.

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

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance

above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

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

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)

¹**Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.**

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³**The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory
thunders;**

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. **R**

⁵**The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;**

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷**The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.**

⁸The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. **R**

⁹**The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the |
forests bare.**

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

**¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Jesus’ miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

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

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, 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 a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from

heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity*, ELW 412

NICENE CREED *page 104*

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

*Each petition will end with: “Hear us, O God,”
You may respond with: “Your mercy is great.”*

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for Ethiopia, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Yemen. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD, depression, or any other mental health concerns. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for St. Paul’s Lutheran, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting...

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your
presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of
Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with
justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: *God Loved the World*, ELW 323

Distribution of the bread and wine will occur on the sidewalk, outside the doors of the gathering space.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*, ELW 414

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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