

Home Service for June 7, 2020

## Welcome and Announcements

Although we cannot meet together in the church building we can share worship together in our individual homes. We will continue to work to stay connected and be there for each other during the difficult time. We are going through something never experience before. I hope this will help you worship God today with those who are in your home. Add hymns if possible, too.

*Lord, we come to celebrate the great good news of your love. Let this love be wrapped in justice and peace for all. AMEN.*

## Opening Prayer:

Almighty God our Father, you dwell in mystery and majesty. By your mighty Spirit you renew and sustain all creation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ you reveal your glory and your love. Made bold through faith, we seek your awesome presence. Come to us in our weakness, that we may be transformed by your strength. Send your Spirit that we may learn to love you -- and our neighbor -- with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind and all our strength. All glory to you, one God, now and forever, Amen.

## Prayer of Confession:

O God, how many times do we miss you? We long to see your face, to know that you are with us, and yet, we don't even recognize you. God, we confess our distraction, our self-absorption, our cynicism. You have not left us, you are not far off; we just need to open our eyes and see you, for you are everywhere and always right beside us. Thank you for this reminder today. Help us to stop and look around, to be still and listen. For only when we take the time to watch and hear, will we be able to know that we have encountered you. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

Jesus said, "I am with you always." Friends, seek earnestly to live in peace and know that the God of peace and love is with you. Amen.

Read Psalm 8:

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>5</sup>You have made them<sup>[d]</sup> a little lower than the angels<sup>[e]</sup> and crowned them<sup>[f]</sup> with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their<sup>[g]</sup> feet: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, <sup>8</sup>the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Prayers of the People:

God of Love and Mercy, you have given us stewardship to care for this wonderful planet and to care for our neighbors. We have been blessed with a variety of gifts and talents and you call us to use them to help others. Open our hearts today to ministries of peace with justice. Embolden us to become part of this great cloud of witnesses who were unafraid to be your disciples. Let us always remember that the church is not the building, but the people who have chosen to worship together even when we are not able to be physically together, let us be spiritually together. We think of so many in this church and in our lives who have gone before us, braving the difficulties presented by life. We name them in our hearts before you, grateful for their example.

(Silent prayer.)

We also name in our hearts those people who are ill, who mourn, who feel lost and alone, those who are part of cultures of oppression and indignity. Help us to be those people who, by our example, will break those chains of poverty and burst the doors that imprison their spirits. Be with this church that it may be a true witness to Jesus Christ in all that we do. 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

Read the Lesson: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of

the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, <sup>[a]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. <sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Read the Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>13</sup> All God's people here send their greetings.

Read the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## Message

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. The day we celebrate the fact that there is only one God, but a God who some would say has three faces. Have you ever seen a clock tower on a building, sometimes on a government building? The one I remember seeing had four faces, so no matter in which direction you looked at it from, you could see the hands and the face of a clock, telling you what time it is. I wondered when I first saw it and still wonder whether there are four different clocks running each set of faces and hands, or whether there is one clock somehow running those four faces and hands. It is a mystery, how those faces and hands on that clock tower really work. Some would say we have the same type of mystery when we think about God as three persons, the Trinity. We have God, the father, creator, God, the son, the redeemer, God, the Spirit the comforter, the counselor, the one who makes us holy. We see the three faces of God, but we have only one God. Like that clock on the tower, God has three faces, but only one God. Each face of God tells us something about God. God, the father, creator tells us about the God of the universe, the God who creates, the God who is powerful. God, the son, Jesus, shows us the love of God, the saving, redeeming quality of God. Then we have God, the Spirit who shows us the God who is with us through all the circumstances of our lives. God the spirit, who brings the Father and the Son into our very souls, hearts and minds.

We as the church know God as the sovereign Father-God who invites as well as demands respectful intimacy, the saving Son, Jesus Christ, who as the enfleshment of God is the most historically clear revelation of the divine offering holy and eternal communion with the divine through faith, and the Holy Spirit who is the continuing presence of God in the world. The Father is over us. The Son was with us. The Holy Spirit remains among us. The Father created us. The Son saves us through faith. The Holy Spirit empowers us for life and ministry. While the manifesting forms of God differ, the content remains consistent. One God has revealed himself in three different, though complementary, ways. God is three yet one. In the 1561 Second Helvetic Confession, Henrich Bullinger wrote: "We believe and teach that the same immense, one and indivisible God is in person inseparably and without confusion distinguished as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit....Thus there are not three gods, but three persons, consubstantial, coeternal, and coequal....For according to the nature and essence they are so joined together that they are one God, and the divine nature is common to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Simply, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the same but different. Same substance: God. Different forms: Trinity.

Our Gospel lesson this morning is often called the Great Commission, so let us investigate what it said and look at what it could mean to us. The disciples had hard decisions to make after Jesus' death: where to go, what to do. In this morning's Gospel, we find them where Jesus had told them to go: home, back in Galilee, on a mountaintop, a good place to clear your head for many biblical great moments happened on mountaintops in the Bible. From there, Jesus instructs them to go out, with full authority, into the whole world. What were they, and we better include ourselves, supposed to do in the world? The instructions were to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Christ had commanded. Since this is Trinity Sunday the fact that they were to baptize in the name of the Triune God jumps out at me right away.

What was another reason for their going out into the world? To teach "them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (v. 20). What was that everything? Jesus said it was all summed up in two commandments: "'You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matt. 22:37-39).

The command to love God wholly, with everything in us, and to do that first and always, is the big one, hopefully we haven't missed out on it. Jesus commanded his

disciples to do this, while saying it summarized all the Law and the Prophets (which must be fulfilled). All this makes the first commandment awesome, fearsome, and very important. It means that we must take this very seriously. We must do this. It takes priority over everything else.

At the same time, it also means that we can do this. Out of the glory of following this first commandment, comes the self, wholly in love with God; that self then whose being is to interact with others to bring them into a baptism of that presence. That self pulls other lives into direct contact with the whole God (Father, Son, and Spirit) because it is in contact with the God.

If we don't know how to love God with the whole mind, body, and soul, then we can contemplate the vision of what it might mean for us to love God, and that completely. We can be quiet, pray, and seek.

No one else can tell you what it means for you to love God because when you're doing it, it's new. You are at the heart of creation then, with the ever new, living God. You might begin to discover why the biblical record is filled with words of joy, celebration, thanksgiving, and ecstasy from those who have immersed themselves in what it means to love God with the whole being. We are to bring to all the rest of our mission the self that has loved God. Loving God comes first; after that, we can't help sharing that love with others.

The last part of the last verse which says: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Is also very important, for it tells us that we are never alone in this world for it is reminding us that it is the Holy Spirit which brings Christ to us throughout the ages. It is that Spirit which brings Christ, the savior into our lives. Therefore we can know that Christ's Spirit of love, mercy and redemption is in our lives every day of our life when we believe.

John Brokhoff wrote: "We can see only evidence of God. You see, God is a Spirit and only a human can have the Spirit. A human is body and soul. The soul is within the body. Within the soul is the Spirit. The soul is like a container for the Spirit. In the person of the Spirit, God is truly with us and in us."

On this Trinity Sunday we want to refresh our faith with the fact that Christianity is backed with the authority, really the guarantee, of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty"(REVELATION 1:8). The trinity is a teaching that Scripture reveals in its sacred pages. Now, some would say that the Triune God is only a teaching made up by man. After all, the word triune or trinity

is not used or found in the Bible. True. Still the teaching of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is interwoven in God's word from the beginning (Genesis) to the end (Revelation). It is only the Triune God that is the true God. It is only the Triune God who brings blessings for all mankind. "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22). Notice again the teaching of the Trinity. God's love is seen in the grace of Christ guaranteed by the Holy Spirit by faith. **OUR TRIUNE GOD BRINGS BLESSINGS:** free grace, God's love, and fellowship; with God and with all believers. Amen.

Benediction:

My friends, go forth into this week in the love of God as you follow in the footsteps of God's son, Jesus the Christ. May the presence of God be real to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Go forth, therefore, in love and hope as you walk with the triune God of glory and strength. Amen.