

Home Service for June 4, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

What are humans that you are mindful of us, O God? That you care for us? How can you trust us with what you have so lovingly made? How can we realize that creation is not only under our feet, but in our hands?

Call to Worship:

To God be all glory, the One who visits us in three persons, the Holy Trinity of hope and love. For there is no place which is without you, O God, and no time when you are not there. For you are the beginning and the end, the source of all that is in the wonder of universal life. And yet, you take us by the hand and lead us, as the life of Christ walks our human way and shows us that life is stronger than death. In the Holy Spirit, we are gifted, again and again, and are called onward toward a future in which we are surrounded with love and grace.

We praise and worship you, O God, for there is no other God like you.

Opening Prayer:

O Triune God:

Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; God beyond us, God with us, God ever among us; You are one God in three persons, ever entwined in a dance of grace. Get us up off our feet today, that we may join the dance, and give you glory, in word, in deed, and in song. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we confess our sin, which separates us from you. We know how people who belong to you should live, but we fail to live that way. At times we have forgotten that we bear your image and have done evil. At times we have forgotten to live in response to your sacrifice for us and have acted selfishly. At times we have ignored the voice of your spirit speaking to our conscience, and we have followed the desires of our own heart. As a result, we have lived for self rather than for you or our neighbor, our lives have been diminished, our witness has been stifled, and your image within us has been tarnished. Forgive us, good Lord, through Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, guide us to live as people who know and love you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Lord, who saves you, says: I am the God who forgives your sins; I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.

Read Psalm 8

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your
Glory in the heavens.

²Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?^[c]

⁵You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e]
and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.

⁶You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[g] feet:

⁷all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

⁸the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Prayers of the People:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, you form one communion as three persons. You create promise in our souls for new life. You redeem us by forgiving our sin and making us new. You sustain us in times of trial and call us forth as instruments of your peace. For these good gifts, we are thankful. May we know that, as three persons in one purpose, you provide all that we could ever need or want. With your blessing, you help us attain new heights of faith, understanding and connection with others. May we know you through

communion with you as Three-in-One, even in our ignorance. We trust that you have heard our prayers today and every day, may you watch over all those whose names we have brought before you. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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 1:1-2:4

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 a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "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 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, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault 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 vault 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 vault of the sky.”²¹ 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.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: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the 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 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,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
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 in the sea and the birds in the sky 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 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.

³¹ 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.

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 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.

⁴ 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. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ 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. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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."

Message

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. Every day there are new claims for brand new and improved products. These products make claims to cure baldness, obesity, and many other problems associated with vanity. The trouble is that these products have no authority to back up their claims. This is the same with false prophets who make many claims. But they only come as wolves in sheep's clothing. They have no authority. On this Trinity Sunday we want to refresh our faith with the fact that Christianity is not just another claim. Christianity is backed with the authority, really the guarantee, of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

There is no mention of the actual word Trinity in the Bible. But it is a doctrine of the church that we believe in whole hardly. The church knows God as the sovereign Father, 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. 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.

I wish that our Epistle would have included one more verse for it reads: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” For than both it and the Gospel would stated the members of the Trinity for us today and I included as I was writing today’s sermon. For that verse also calls our attention to the blessings that come from our Triune God.

Blessing is the word that describes gifts from God. Our lives are filled with God’s blessings. We are showered abundantly with daily gifts from God, blessings. As believers we gratefully recognize that all that we have and are we owe to the Lord God Almighty. Our gracious God lovingly, freely provides for us here on earth. Even more importantly our gracious God makes sure that believers are blessed with eternal gifts.

God inspired Paul to write a second letter to the believers at Corinth for they were struggling while living in the wickedest city of the known world. As Paul ends his letter with the final verse: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” God blesses these believers with grace. We all have the desperate need from the instant our lives begin which is forgiveness. Only by the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior does anyone have forgiveness. Rejoice that our triune God brings blessings.

Grace is God’s undeserved, free gift of love for mankind. Sadly too many today try to make God’s grace into something that can be earned by work. Mankind cannot earn God’s grace. No one deserves the forgiveness that Jesus freely provides by his life, suffering, death, and resurrection. Nor can we purchase forgiveness for one single sin. Rather, forgiveness is freely given as a gift of grace from God. Jesus freely forgives. Such is divine grace. Our Triune God Brings blessings by the free gift of grace from Christ our Savior.

God’s love was preached to them in God’s word. God’s love is in the grace of Jesus Christ who died for all believers. The love of the Lord God Almighty is closely connected with Christ our Savior. We are reminded that the Triune God is intimately connected in carrying out divine plans for the benefit of a sinful world. Trinity means three Persons; only one God. God’s love is almost beyond our

human understanding. Out of love God sent his Son to die for us. We, who still sin daily and sin much! Rejoice, our triune God brings blessings.

Faith brought these believers together. Faith kept these believers worshiping together, both Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. Though of very different backgrounds these believers had peace by their fellowship with God. Our fellowship with God angers Satan. God's grace and love are far greater and stronger than the evil desires and working of Satan. It is by faith that we believe and are saved. Faith is God's gift of the Holy Spirit. It is by the working of the Holy Spirit by placing faith in our hearts that changes our lives forever. Consider how great that blessing to be considered a member of God's family. God is our Father. Jesus is our brother. Eternity is our inheritance.

Thankfully we are connected to the only God who provides us with absolutely everything eternally needful. Our God is the source of our life and breath and salvation. Without God we are nothing. Without God we are lost forever.

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 with Genesis to the ends with Revelation. It is only the Triune God that is the true God. It is only the Triune God who brings blessings for all mankind. 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:

Go, therefore, because you are children of the Triune God and partners in God's work of light, life, and love that even now is at work all around us. May the mystery of the Trinity enfold you, the glory of the Trinity astound you, and the love of the Trinity companion you on your way. Amen.