

Order of Worship for May 30, 2021 - Trinity Sunday

Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* – Hymn #507

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In that name, and with that faith--as dear children approaching a loving parent, as sinners redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, as believers filled with the Holy Spirit--let us confess our sins to almighty God.

C: Let us seek forgiveness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we have been unworthy and disobedient children. We have ignored our Father's admonitions, disregarded our Savior's instructions, grieved the Holy Spirit. We are not worthy to be called children of God. But we beg You--of Your fatherly compassion, by Your saving merits, at Your inviting call--to have mercy on us and grant us Your forgiveness.

P: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, the heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit that they may be children of God. Rejoice in the Lord; your sins are forgiven--in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Service of the Word

Athanasian Creed (1-12): page 319

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

R: In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:
“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of His glory!”

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

R: But Peter, standing with the eleven other disciples, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ... "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. For David says concerning Him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

For You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let Your Holy One see corruption.

You have made known to me the paths of life;

You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.'

"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would set one of his descendants on his throne, He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.'

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord

P: Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Athanasian Creed (13-26): page 320

Sermon Hymn: “*Father Most Holy*” – **Hymn #504**

Sermon: “*The Divine Flow*” John 16:12-15

There is a wonderful book in our children’s library entitled 3 in 1. It uses an apple to illustrate the teaching of the Trinity. I am going to use that idea to review the Church’s teaching about God being three in one.

Look at a single apple. Now think that there is only one God. If I cut open an apple, it has three parts—the peel, the flesh, and the core. The one true God has three persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

All three parts of the apple are apple. The peel is apple. It is not an orange. The flesh is apple. It is not a pear. It is not a plum. The core is apple. It is not a grapefruit. It is not a watermelon. But these three—peel, flesh, core—are not three apples, but just one apple. All three persons of the one true God are God. God the Father is God. God the Son is God. God the Holy Spirit is God. But these three—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—are not three Gods, but just one God.

The three different parts of the apple have different purposes. The peel protects. It keeps the apple healthy. The flesh of the apple is good to eat. Lots of good things to eat are made from the flesh of the apple—apple pie, apple crisp, applesauce, apple cider. The core of the apple contains seeds from which apple trees grow. When just one apple seed is planted in the ground, the result is many, many apples.

Like the apple the three persons of the one true God have different purposes too—God the Father is our protector. He made us and all people and all things, even apples. He loves us and protects us and makes even bad things turn out for our good. He keeps things growing so we have food—cows, carrots, even apples. We do things God doesn't like. We don't do what He wants us to do. God said there must be a punishment for these things. That would make us very sad. It would hurt a lot for a very long time.

But God sent His Son to take the punishment for us. His name is Jesus. He is a real man. He suffered, died, and was buried like an apple seed is buried in the ground. But just as an apple seed sprouts from the ground and makes a new apple, Jesus rose from the dead. The result is beautiful, wonderful, happy new lives for us.

But before we can have this, there is something else we must have—faith in Jesus.

When you plant an apple seed in the ground you believe an apple will grow from it. That's faith in an apple seed. When you believe Jesus died for you and lives again to give you a beautiful, wonderful, happy new life, that's faith in Jesus. Our hearts are like a piece of ground. The ground cannot plant itself with an apple seed. Someone must put the seed into the ground. We cannot put faith into our own hearts. God the Holy Spirit makes us believe in Jesus. He puts faith into our hearts and keeps it alive and growing as long as we want him to.

When an apple seed is planted in the ground, the rain feeds it, and it begins to grow. When the Holy Spirit puts faith into the heart, he feeds it with God's Word, and faith begins to grow. When you pick an apple from a tree, you know it is an apple. It looks like an apple, it has an apple peel, its flesh is apple, and if you plant a seed from its core, an apple tree will grow. Though it has three parts, you know you do not have three apples, just one. If you have faith in the true God, you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There are three persons, but there is only one true God. . .

The Trinity—we name churches after it. More LCMS churches are named Trinity than any other name. We begin our worship in the name of the Triune God. We make so many designs in our churches based on the Trinity. But so what? What does the Triune God have to do with you and me?

Jesus says in our Gospel, "All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take what is Mine and make it known to you." In the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we see a "divine flow." The Father sends the Son into the world, and the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit into our world today so that the Father's love given in the Son flows into our lives.

Government controversies usually involve so much energy and effort expended both in trying to find out and trying to deflect, “Who is at fault? Who is to blame?” People are eager to point the blame, slow to accept responsibility, and determined to defend themselves.

But we shouldn’t be surprised about that. We do it all the time among ourselves. A comedian once said that parents aren’t really parents until they have more than one child because otherwise they don’t have to deal with a scene like this: “He did it!” “No, you did it!” How much tension is caused in marriages because it is more important for us to convince ourselves that we won an argument than it is to build each other up in love?

Now imagine God acting that way. The Father becomes jealous of the Son, because He gets so much recognition. The Son thinks the Father is patronizing. The Holy Spirit feels left out and forgotten. We would be doomed, lost in our sin. But instead the divine flow passed on the love—no jealousy, no pettiness, no defensiveness, no worrying about who gets the credit. There is just love. Why? It is for you and me, to save us from eternal jealousy, pettiness, and defensiveness.

Seventy-seven years ago on this day the Allies stormed the beaches at Normandy, France on D-Day during World War II. The man who pushed for that invasion more than any other was General of the Army George Marshall. Marshall organized the army from a small group into the massive force that helped win the war. He did it by reminding people to “work the problem.” Instead of worrying about who was to blame or who got the credit, Marshall insisted that the important thing was to accomplish what needed to be done. Yet Marshall is most famous for what worked with after the war. He was Secretary of State when the US sent huge amounts of aid overseas to help Europe recover from the war. The program bears his name—the Marshall Plan. But it does because President Truman, who pushed for it, insisted on that name. He felt the program had a better chance of being accepted if it had Marshall’s name. Truman said, “It is amazing how much can get done when you don’t worry about who gets credit for it.”

That’s the attitude God gives to us. Yes, we know God deserves all the credit, but what did He do with it? The Father gave up His Son, who died for us on the cross, so the Spirit can bring the Son into our lives. That divine flow runs into us so that instead of pointing the blame, being defensive, or worrying about who gets credit, we love as God loves us.

Athanasian Creed (27-40): page 320

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface: (Pastor)

Lord's Prayer:

The Words of our Lord:

Distribution:

Communion Hymns:

“O Blessed, Holy Trinity” – **Hymn #876**

“Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise” - **Hymn #946**

Dismissal:

Prayer After Communion:

P: 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 ruling, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“Glory Be to God the Father”* – **Hymn #506**

Postlude

