

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



THE HOLY TRINITY

MAY 26, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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THE HOLY TRINITY

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.

How Can These Things Be?

Given the many heated encounters between Jesus and Pharisees, the term Pharisee has become, for some, another word for "enemy of truth" or "opponent of God's promises for the world." In communities where divisions over what is true and false, good and bad, have become iron-clad, often rankling relationships, it may seem familiar—even honorable—to hiss at Pharisees. But that wasn't Jesus' way.

Think first about people like the Samaritan woman at the well, or a centurion in Rome's brutal occupying army, or a scandalous prostitute, or an executioner driving nails into Jesus' flesh—people that might have been easily discarded. Yet Jesus related to them in compassion and mercy, not exclusion.

Then think of Nicodemus, meeting Jesus at night, calling him "a teacher who has come from God." Nicodemus is a Pharisee but he is hardly an enemy of truth opposing God's way in the world. Moreover, with one word, "we," he includes other Pharisees like himself who wish to accompany Jesus in God's kingdom.

The perplexing nighttime conversation that leaves Nicodemus in a state of wonderment—"How can these things be?"—leads to Jesus' climactic revelation: "God so loved the world . . ." In the gospel's original Greek, "world" (kosmos) indicates that literally every bit of the universe receives God's mercy and compassion, saving us all from perishing into iron-clad division between who is in and who it out.

How can these things be? On this Sunday that celebrates the wonder of the Trinity, the answer comes from God the Creator, saying that creation is good; from God the Redeemer, teaching us to love the world as God loves it; and from God the Spirit, continuing to draw us into wonderment. That's how this can be.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Battle Hymn of the Republic (ELW 890)



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP

How Majestic Is Your Name

C C/E F Dm7 C/E

O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your

C C/E G7 G7/B C C/E

name in all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how ma -

F Dm7 C/E C C/E G7 G7/B C

jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O

F Dm7 G Am7 G7/B C C/E F

Lord, we praise your name. O Lord,

Dm7 G Am7 G7/B C B B/D# Em D D/F#

we mag - ni - fy your name, Prince of Peace, might - y

G G7/F C/E F G7sus G7 C

God, O Lord God Al - might - y.

OPENING LITANY

O Divine Voice,

You sing and the universe comes into being;

O Divine Breath,

You breathe and all things spring to life;

O Divine Word,

You call and creation is sustained;

O Divine Flesh,

**You are born among us,
and the Creator is clothed in creation;**

O Divine Spirit,

You fill all that has been formed;

O Divine Life,

You are the pulse of all that is.

And so, in amazement and awe, in wonder and celebration
we marvel at this mystery:

In you all things live and move and have being,

In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry;

And so we join with creation

in the eternal song of worship and wonder:

**** GATHERING SONGS**

Jesus, Son of God

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You came down from heaven's throne
This earth you formed was not your home
A love like this the world had never known.
A crown of thorns to mock your name.
Forgiveness fell upon your face.
A love like this the world had never known.

(Refrain - All)

**On the altar of our praise,
Let there be no higher name:
Jesus, Son of God.
You laid down your perfect life
You are the sacrifice,
Jesus, Son of God.
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**You took our sin, you bore our shame,
You rose to life, you defeated the grave,
And a love like this the world has never known.
'Cause you took our sin, you bore our shame,
You rose to life, you defeated the grave
A love like this the world has never known.**

(Refrain - All)

**On the altar of our praise,
Let there be no higher name:
Jesus, Son of God.
You laid down your perfect life
You are the sacrifice,
Jesus, Son of God.
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

(Music Ministers)

**Be lifted higher than
All you've overcome.
Your name be louder
Than any other song
There is no power
That can come against your love.
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough**

(All)

**On the altar of our praise,
Let there be no higher name:
Jesus, Son of God.
You laid down your perfect life.
You are the sacrifice,
Jesus, Son of God.**

**On the altar of our praise,
Let there be no higher name:
Jesus, Son of God.
You laid down your perfect life.
You are the sacrifice,
Jesus, Son of God.
You are Jesus, Son of God.**

**Be lifted higher than
All you've overcome.
Your name be louder
Than any other song
There is no power
That can come against your love.
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough,
The cross was enough.
(return to outline)**



"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty!"

**(Verse 1 - All)
Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity!**

**(Verse 2 - All)
Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall
Praise thy name
In earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity!**

**(Music Ministers)
"Holy!" We cry "holy!"
"Holy!" We cry "holy!"
"Holy!" We cry "holy!"
"Holy!" We cry "holy!"**

CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, let us confess to the holy and triune God, who lives in perfect relationship, one God in three persons, mutual and loving, ever seeking reconciliation and unity:

You have called us to live in your example of perfect love, which demands that we lay down our lives for our friends, yet we confess that our relationships are imperfect, and we are incomplete without you. We are selfish and greedy; we are anxious and resentful. We feel the shame of our foolish behavior and brokenness. We have allowed sin to drive us apart from one another and from you.

Forgive us and restore us, draw us close and bind us together in your mercy. May we long for wholeness and peace, may we strive toward gratitude and grace, in the saving name of your son, Jesus Christ, by the working of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FORGIVENESS

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

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.

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

In 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. Seraphs 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. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And 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!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The 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." Then 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

Psalms 29

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

Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

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!"

**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

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.

A reading from the book of Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For 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!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He 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." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus 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?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "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. If I have told you about earthly

things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "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.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Don Bennett

ANTHEM

*Let All Creation Sing His Praise
by Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir*

Praise the Lord, all creation proclaim it.
Alleluia, praise the Lord.
Let the people of God lift their song singing
Alleluia! Let All creation sing his praise.

Every tribe, every nation,
Let the kings of earth bow down.
Sun and moon, stars in the heaven,
Let them all in praise resound.

Praise ye the Lord,
Praise his holy name,
Let all creation lift praises
And voices to God.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, all creation proclaim it.
Alleluia, praise the Lord.
Let the people of God lift their song singing
Alleluia! Let All creation sing his praise.

Praise the Lord, all creation proclaim it.
Alleluia, praise the Lord.
Let the people of God lift their song singing
Alleluia! Let All creation sing his praise.
Alleluia!

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

HOLY COMMUNION

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

** BLESSING

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

** SENDING SONG

Everlasting God

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You pp forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You reign forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Final Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Our God, You reign forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

**** DISMISSAL**

Assistant Minister

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564

Monday, May 27, 2024

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Friday, May 31, 2024

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary “blessed among women,” and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

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