



Through the Word, the Triune God Blesses Us

The Festival of the Holy Trinity

June 12, 2022

SERIES THEME - GOD'S WORDS POSSESS GOD'S POWER

"Let there be light," God said (Genesis 1:3). God was not speaking a wistful wish into the darkness. He was declaring what would now be. "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." God speaks and reality results.

When we speak words, they are often meaningless. Sometimes, one's words are meaningless because they are spoken without true knowledge. Other times, one's words are meaningless because they were spoken insincerely. Still other times, one might make a sincere promise, but he lacks the ability to do what he said, making his promise meaningless. Words are often meaningless. But everything God says is meaningful. God speaks with absolute knowledge. God never lies. And God's words possess God's awesome power. Thus, it is God's words that determine our reality. It is God's words that establish our faith, transform our hearts and minds, and direct our lives along meaningful paths.

During the first half of the Church Year, we focused on the life of Christ. As we begin the second half of the Church Year, we turn our attention to the teachings of Christ... to the Son of God's words. We gather each week to let the Holy Spirit do the work Jesus promised he would do in the way Jesus promised he would do it—through his Word.

THEME OF THE DAY - THROUGH THE WORD, THE TRIUNE GOD BLESSES US

The Scriptures never use the words "Trinity" or "Triune." They never even summarize in any single place the entirety of this doctrine. Instead, as we read God's Word from the first verse of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation, he gives us hints and glimpses of his Triune nature. Thus, the doctrine of the Trinity can seem very academic, even abstract. It may seem to have little relevance to the Christian's daily life. Nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, as God provides those hints and glimpses, his primary focus is on the way in which his Triune nature is a blessing to us. God shows us how we benefit from the fact he exists as Trinity. God dwells in a "majesty and mystery" (Prayer of the Day) that far exceeds our understanding. But here is what we can understand. Every time we gather in the name of the Lord, our Triune God, we receive indescribable blessings.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
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Acknowledgments

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Hymn: 483 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true, immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Numbers 6:22–27

²²The LORD told Moses ²³to speak to Aaron and to his sons and to tell them to bless the Israelites with these words:

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you.

²⁵The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

²⁶The LORD look on you with favor
and give you peace.

²⁷In this way they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1–5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 6:3



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Refrain

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Gospel

John 16:12–15

¹²"I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own, but whatever he hears he will speak. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I said that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 481 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

Sermon

Stand

Selected Portions of the ATHANASIAN CREED

A Confession of Faith for Trinity Sunday

This creed is named for St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It was written over a century after the death of Athanasius to combat two errors that undermined key scriptural teachings. One error denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth. It declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without the saving faith.

The closing section of this creed also briefly speaks of the necessity of good works in the life of the Christian. The good works God produces in us and through us are the natural consequence of the faith hidden in the heart. The creed's reference to doing good calls to mind Jesus' words in John 5:28,29 and his declaration to the sheep and the goats on judgment day in Matthew 25:31-46. Good works do not contribute to our salvation. However, good works demonstrate our faith in Christ and testify to others that we are Christians.

The section of the Athanasian Creed included here is the portion that confesses the Bible's teaching about the Triune God. This portion serves as a very fitting confession of faith for Trinity Sunday. A translation of the entire text of the Athanasian Creed may be found on pages 285 in Christian Worship 2021.

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God,

Without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

The Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

The Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty; yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord, so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, But all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that, in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshipped as one God and one God worshipped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Triune God, you are the one eternal God, whose name we praise forever. We would not have known you if you had not revealed yourself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons, yet one God. Remove from us all doubt and grant us humble faith as we contemplate this high and holy mystery.

Enlighten and empower us to worship you as the triune God, the holy Trinity.

God our Father, whatever good is in us, whatever good things we have, and whatever good we do comes from you alone. In you we live and move and have our being.

Open our eyes to see the gifts you provide every day purely out of your own love and care.

Lord Jesus our Savior, you came into our world to make the Father known to us. You joined yourself to us by taking on our humanity and brought us back to God by shedding your blood. In love you walked the way of suffering and carried the wrath of God that we deserved because of our sins. Help us believe that all you did and all you endured you did to rescue us and set us free.

In the bright new hope of your resurrection teach us to offer our lives in praise to God and love to our neighbor.

Creator Spirit, you breathed into us new life by the power of the gospel, opened our eyes to see the light of your grace, and filled our minds with the clear sound of your voice. Through Word and sacrament lead us to understand more completely how broad and deep and high is the love of God in Christ Jesus. Firm up our resolve to do battle with Satan and sin.

In every weakness be our strength, that we may show ourselves to be God's children: faithful in prayer, constant in hope, and fervent in love.

Special Prayers

Holy Trinity, you are the God of glory, the God of grace, and the God of all comfort.

We rejoice to call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and praise your holy name forever. Amen.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 586 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: 482 Triune God, O Be Our Stay