

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENDORA
THE HOLY TRINITY
May, 26, 2024

As We Gather

We ponder today the great mystery of God—that God is one and that this one God is three persons. The liturgy in its proclamation focuses on the divine mystery of the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is not so much truth to be understood as it is truth to be confessed. We confess the Father from whom all things come, the Son who is the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit who proceeds from the Father through the Son. Throughout the centuries of the Christian Church, the confession of the Holy Trinity has been a hallmark of faithful believers. We sing of the Trinity and, with the profound words of the Athanasian Creed, we confess the Holy Trinity to be the one true God.

PREPARATION

966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

- 1 Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring, In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise, To You, our King!
- 2 The nation You have blest, May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
- 3 May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue, Be tuned to praise, And join to raise, A grateful song.
- 4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,
And bow before, The Crucified.
- 5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs, Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King, Salvation's song!

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Revelation 4:8b, 11*

- P Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!
C **Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,**

- P for You created all things,
C **and by Your will they existed and were created.**

Confession and Absolution

- P Almighty God, we are called to confess You as the God who has no equal;
C **You are three distinct persons, yet one God.**
P You are holy, we are not; You are righteous, we are not.
C **Yet in Your foreknowledge, You knew this would be our state, and You made a distinct and definite plan for a way to redeem us from our sins: the sins of thought, which creep into our minds daily; our words, which deserve death because of the evil that comes from our tongues; and our deeds, which we know go against Your holiness. Forgive us, Lord, for these and all sins, not because we are deserving, but for Your definite plan of mercy and grace shown to us at the cross.**
P I ask you before God, who searches all hearts, and one another, is this your sincere confession? If so, answer yes.
C **Yes, this is my sincere confession before God and before my brothers and sisters in Christ.**
P Hear the good news on this day! God has forgiven you all your sins because of the blood of Jesus shed at the cross. In the stead and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen! Thanks be to God for His mercy and grace!**
P May God, who began this definite plan before He created the world, continue to work in you and bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Thank You, Lord, for loving us, forgiving us, and having a definite plan for us.**

WORD

Introit *Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

- P Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.
C **Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.**
P I have set the Lord always before me;
C **because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
C **my flesh also dwells secure.**
P For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
C **or let Your holy one see corruption.**
P You make known to me the path of life;
C **in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.
C **Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.**

Kyrie based on *Ephesians 1:4–5; John 3:16*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the creation of this world, which has turned its back on You,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the creation of all the wonders of this world, and having a purpose for all You have created,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For knowing us before You created us,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For redeeming us at the greatest cost to You,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For sending Your Holy Spirit into this world, and giving Him to us at our Baptism,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For using the Holy Spirit to make us Your own,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P As we consider all the times we have offended You, and You forgave us for Jesus' sake,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Continue to help, save, direct, comfort, and defend us.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

905 Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

2 Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success, And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear, In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

D 4 To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be, Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity, Love and adore.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are three persons yet one God. This is a mystery that is beyond our understanding. You ask us not to understand but simply believe. Give us the faith of a child, that what You have said in Your Word about Yourself we may believe in our hearts and live

out by faith in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, who is, and who is coming, the Almighty.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 6:1–8*

¹In 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. ²Above 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. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And 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!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b*

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

C **and His greatness is unsearchable.**

P On Your wondrous works, I will meditate,

C **and I will declare Your greatness.**

Epistle *Acts 2:14a, 22–36*

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“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—²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

““I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“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. ³⁰Being 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, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being 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. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse *Isaiah 6:3b*

P Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

C **the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *John 3:1–17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, 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.

¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For 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.**

Children’s Message

507 Holy, Holy, Holy *sts. 1–4*

- 1 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!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see, Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.
- 4 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!

Sermon

Creed

Athanasian Creed

P Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

C **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**

P And the catholic faith is this,

C **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**

P For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

C **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

P Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

C **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

P the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

C **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**

P And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

C **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

P In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

C **and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.**

P So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

C **and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

P So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
 C **and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**
 P Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
 C **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**
 P The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
 C **The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**
 P Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
 C **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**
 P but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.
 C **Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**
 P But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 C **Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**
 P He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
 C **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**
 P equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
 C **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**
 P one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
 C **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
 P For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
 C **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**
 P ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 C **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**
 P And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
 C **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

Offering

717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save *sts. 1–4*

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'’st the mighty ocean deep, Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee, For those in peril on the sea.
- 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand, From ev'ry peril on the land.
- 3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent, To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might, Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care, From ev'ry peril in the air.
- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee, Glad praise from air and land and sea.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- C **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.**

Benediction

- P When God gave Aaron and his sons the benediction, He said, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them.'" Receive, therefore, with believing hearts, the benediction of our God:
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

965 God Bless Our Native Land

- 1 God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night. When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save, By Thy great might.
- 2 So shall our prayers arise, To God above the skies; On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

TAPS *With thanks to God for those who have died in service to this nation.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.
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