

The Holy Trinity

June 12, 2022

Lutheranism is not a new faith, but the continuation of the historic, Christian faith of all times and places. In this sense Lutheranism is *catholic*, a word that comes from two Greek words, meaning “according to the whole.” With Christians of all times and all places, we confess what God’s Word teaches—nothing more, and nothing less. For this reason, we confess the ancient creeds of the Church: the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.

The Athanasian Creed: Early in the fourth century, a North African pastor named Arius began teaching that Jesus Christ was not truly God but rather the first of creation. The Church responded decisively in A.D. 325 with a statement of faith (The Nicene Creed), which confesses what the Bible says that Jesus is, in fact, truly God. Toward the end of the fifth century, another creed was written that describes further the mystery of the Trinity. This creed is named for Athanasius, who stood up for Christ against the attack of Arius upon Jesus’ divinity.

The Athanasian Creed proclaims the teachings of the Bible and the universal Christian or *catholic* faith concerning God as He has revealed Himself to us as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the One we know as the Holy Trinity. The true church of all times and all places has confessed this faith. More than 15 centuries later, the church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given Himself for our salvation.

The Athanasian Creed is found on pages 319 & 320 of the hymnal and at the end of this service.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lutheran Service Book 168, Lutheran Worship 160, The Lutheran Hymnal 246



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon Liturgical Text

L Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.

C I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

L Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

C For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

L You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C 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.

L Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: 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.

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

- ¹Does not wisdom call?
Does not understanding raise her voice?
- ²On the heights beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
- ³beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:
- ⁴“To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the children of man. . . .
- ²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.
- ²³Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
- ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
- ²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.
- ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- ²⁸when he made firm the skies above,

when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit,
 so that the waters might not transgress his command,
 when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman,
 and I was daily his delight,
 rejoicing before him always,
³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world
 and delighting in the children of man.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

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

C and his greatness is unsearchable.

L On your wondrous works, I will meditate,

C and I will declare your greatness.

Psalm 8

L ¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

C of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.

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

C ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

L ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

C ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet,

L ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

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

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 of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

John 8:48–59

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁸The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’” ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’” ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

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

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 158, The Lutheran Hymnal 233



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make
2 To You, the Coun - sel - or, we cry, To You,
3 In You, with grac - es sev - en - fold, We God's
4 Your light to ev - 'ry thought im - part, And shed
5 Drive far a - way our wi - ly foe, And Your



our hearts Your place of rest; Come with Your grace and
the gift of God Most High; The fount of life, the
al - might - y hand be - hold While You with tongues of
Your love in ev - 'ry heart; The weak - ness of our
a - bid - ing peace be - stow; With You as our pro -



heav'n - ly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.
fire of love, The soul's a - noint - ing from a - bove.
fire pro - claim To all the world His ho - ly name.
mor - tal state With death - less might in - vig - or - ate.
tect - ing guide, No e - vil can with us a - bide.

6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And You, from both, as Three in One
That we Your name may ever bless
And in our lives the truth confess.

7 Praise we the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, with them One,
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

Devotional thoughts:

Has it ever happened to you that an annoyance in your life turned out to be a blessing? This happened to me when I was about 10 or 11 years old.

We lived more or less in the country just outside of Three Oaks, Michigan on three acres of land. A couple of acres were rented to the farmer next door. The rest served as our lawn. To this day, I find no joy in pushing a lawnmower.

Back and forth, back and forth I went for what seemed like hours. Of course, as a ten-year-old, any chore seemed to last for hours. But this monotonous and tiresome task produced a hidden blessing. It gave my young mind time to think. I thought about life. I thought about heaven. I thought about God. And when I had to start cutting the lawn again a day or two after I had just completed the task, I thought about infinity.

Have you ever thought about infinity? It's a mind-numbing experience. Imagine for a moment that through some miracle of science that you traveled to the very edge of the universe. Now ask yourself, "What is on the other side?" Of course, philosophers and scientists will tell you that this is a nonsensical question and reflects a lack of understanding of the concept of infinity. I suppose that infinity was not the only thing that my ten-year-old mind didn't understand. In fact, there is a great deal that my much older mind doesn't understand.

So what does this have to do with Trinity Sunday? There is a long history of people rejecting the Biblical teaching of the Holy Trinity or the Triune God simply because they don't understand it. They ask, "How can one God be three persons with each person being distinct from the other but completely God, and yet there is only one God, not three gods." "Inconceivable!" they shout.

I agree, what the Bible says about God is beyond my human imagination. Some might call it mind-blowing. Here are some more inconceivable concepts that the Bible teaches us about God. He is uncreated. He is infinite, eternal, and almighty just to name a few. God by His very nature is inconceivable to the human mind. Psalm 145:3 tells us, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." Job declares, "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number" (Job 5:8-9).

Indeed, we can look at the world around us and learn something about God. Psalm 19:1 reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Hebrews 3:4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God." With this natural knowledge of God, cultures and societies around the world and throughout history have concluded that there must be a god or gods. But unless God tells us about Himself, no human being can know the true God.

Isaiah writes, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." It is no wonder that when Jesus tries to explain spiritual truths in the Gospel lesson today, Nicodemus responds, "How can these things be?" (John 3:9).

Some people reject the Biblical teaching of the Trinity or Triune God by saying the words "trinity" and "triune" do not appear in the Bible. Of course, this is true. However, when we use these words, we are simply using them as shorthand to indicate everything that the Bible says about God being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet not three Gods but only one God.

The Bible reveals to us something even more mind-boggling than the Holy Trinity. This inconceivable truth is found in these words, "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" (John 3:16-17).

Here is an unthinkable, unimaginable, incredible truth. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 5:15 KJV).

God has worked out everything to save you and me! Inconceivable! In Genesis 3:15, right after the fall into sin, God promised a savior. Throughout the entire Old Testament, He continued to repeat the promise. Then, at just the right time, "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, came and lived a perfect life for you. He died on the cross for your sins and the sins of the world. He rose again so that whoever believes in Him would have eternal life. Inconceivable!

But one more thing had to happen. No one would believe this unthinkable, unimaginable, incredible truth without the gift of the Holy Spirit. So to complete His plan of salvation, God sent the Holy Spirit to bring you to faith and to keep you in the faith. Inconceivable, but true!

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate God's complete plan of salvation. We recognize how God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work together to bring us out of sin and death into holiness and life eternal. This is our Christian faith!

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay Lutheran Service Book 505, Lutheran Worship 170, The Lutheran Hymnal 247



Tri - une God, be Thou our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!



Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.



Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,



And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum-ble hearts and low - ly.



Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning



Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev-il's wiles and cun - ning.



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- L** Lord of hosts, Your ways are inscrutable and Your judgments unsearchable. Through Your Word, give us an ever-growing understanding of the depths of Your riches, wisdom and knowledge, that we may glorify You forever.
- C** Amen.
- L** Lord of hosts, You gave Your only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Bless the work of all who carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth, that many may hear of Your love in Your Son and be saved through Him.
- C** Amen.
- L** Almighty God, govern the kingdoms of this world according to Your holy and gracious will. Protect those in harm's way because of the war in Ukraine that continues to cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer. Curb what is evil and promote what is good among us wherever we live in this fallen world.
- C** Amen.
- L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. During this time of continued uncertainty as the pandemic continues to be a concern, give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from this illness or others. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.
- C** Amen.
- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
- 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.
- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
Who sus - tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

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The Athanasian Creed

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

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

And the catholic* faith is this,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

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

and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.

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

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

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

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.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

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

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

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

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; 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.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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:

perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

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.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic* faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

*Note: The word catholic here does not indicate The Roman Catholic Church which is written with an uppercase "C". Here catholic is used in its original sense of "universal" or "the whole Christian Church." In this sense, the Lutheran Church is part of the catholic church and its most authentic representation in the world today. We believe that the Roman Catholic Church is a part of the catholic or universal church. However—as defined by its dogma—it is a product of the 16th Century Council of Trent.

Pastor Quardokus

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Holy Trinity

June 13 – 18, 2022

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday

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

Introit Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon Liturgical Text

- L** Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.
Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.
C **I have set the Lord always before me;**
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
L Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
C **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,**
or let your holy one see corruption.
L You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
C **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.
L Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.
Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

The Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity of God is beyond our human comprehension. So is His mercy.

In contemporary America, there is a fashionable fad to speak about a concept borrowed from Hinduism and Buddhism called karma. Karma is the spiritual principle of cause and effect. It says that you will get what you deserve, if not in this life then in some future reincarnation.

It is often mentioned when someone is apparently punished for a misdeed or rewarded for a good deed. Christians immediately see what is missing here, mercy! Mercy is the concept of not getting what we deserve. It is the concept of kindness for those who are getting exactly what they deserve for their sin and misdeeds.

In the English Standard Version of the Bible, mercy is mentioned 157 times! Here are just a few examples of mercy from the Psalms, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23:6). “I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.” (Psalm 116:1). “The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:9).

Many of us are familiar with Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan, but do you remember how it ends? Jesus asks, “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” (Luke 10:36-37).

In Christ, we have received incomprehensible mercy! We have received the forgiveness of sins! When the gladness and joy of God’s mercy enter our hearts, we cannot help but share that same mercy with others.

L Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, Your mercies are new to us every morning and, though we in no wise deserve Your goodness, You abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and cheerfully serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.. Amen

C Amen

Tuesday

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

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

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

C Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L Let us pray: 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.

The collect for this week reminds us that it is only by grace that we know the true God and share the true faith. Truth is a concept that has fallen on hard times lately. It is no surprise to me when secularists belittle the truth of God’s word and reject it on the basis of human reason. However, it is particularly distressing when those who claim leadership in the church are so willing to discard the truth in order to remain friends with the fallen world.

I am reminded of a pivotal Bible passage that I read in tumultuous days of 1974 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. It is Paul's message to the Ephesians, that "we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love" (Ephesians 4:14-16 RSV).

Let us pray: 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. Amen.

Wednesday

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

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Psalm 8

- L** ¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
C of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
L ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
C ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
L ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
C ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
L ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
C ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
L ⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Every society has a concept of God or gods. It's built into our DNA. When people look at the sky, the mountains, the lakes, the rivers, the forests, and the oceans, they have a natural urge to see God at work. They know what David declares in Psalm 8:1, "How majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

Yet because of our sinfulness, our ability to commune with God was destroyed. We can see what He created but we cannot see Him or know Him directly.

But God has not abandoned us. Psalm 8:5 says that God has created us "a little lower than the heavenly beings." Hebrews 2:7 quotes this passage and rightly identifies the heavenly beings as angels.

Hebrews goes on to explain that Jesus, Himself, was made one of us and so for a while was made lower than the angels: “But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering” (Hebrews 2:9-10).

Jesus was made one of us for our salvation! Our salvation was accomplished through His suffering and death!

Now, Jesus has ascended above the angels to the right hand of God. God, the Father, has put everything under His feet (Psalm 8:6). The Apostle Paul explains it this way in Ephesians 1:19-23:

He wants us to know “the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And **he put all things under his feet** and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Through the Holy Scripture and the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we know the true God, not only through the majesty of creation but more importantly through His Son Jesus! John 1:18 (NIV) tells us, “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.”

Because of Jesus, we know the true God. We don’t have to speculate about Him. We join David and call Him by name when we praise Him: “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:1).

Prayer: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives on reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thursday

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

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

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

C Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

¹Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

²On the heights beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

⁴“To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the children of man. . . .

²²“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.
²³Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.
²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman,
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.”

The words “wisdom” and “wise” are found in the Bible approximately 400 times! Wisdom is an important quality that God’s people diligently seek!

When Solomon became King, he asked God for wisdom. God answered his prayer in 1 Kings 3:11-12:

¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

God granted Solomon’s request by making him the wisest man that ever lived! Wisdom is more than being clever. It is more than the gift of intelligence. According to these verses, wisdom is the ability to “discern what is right!”

The book of Proverbs is a compendium of wisdom. Most of it was written by Solomon. Proverbs 9:10 tells us that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Without faith in God, it is impossible to be truly wise! A person can be brilliant but foolish if he lacks faith! Wisdom has not even begun in the person who does not fear the Lord!

Proverbs 8 is an ode to wisdom. Wisdom is poetically identified as a woman. She calls out to humanity (verses 3 & 4). Verses 22-31 describe how intimately wisdom is connected with God. In the last two verses of Proverbs 8 (which are not included in our lesson for this week), lady wisdom declares:

³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord,
³⁶ but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death” (Proverbs 8:35-36).

These verses tell us that finding wisdom is finding life and hating wisdom is the same as loving death. This connection of wisdom with life brings to mind our Savior Jesus. The Apostle Paul calls Him “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

True wisdom is faith in Jesus. He also calls out to us to come to Him. He grants us eternal life. May God continually grant to us the true wisdom of faith.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for giving us faith in Jesus. Grant that we would always discern what is right and trust in Him for our salvation. May this wisdom fill us all the days of our lives. Amen.

Friday

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

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

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

C Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

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.”

If you didn’t do it the first time, go back and read Acts 2:22–36 and note how Peter explains that each person of the Holy Trinity is working together for our salvation.

Everything that happened in Jesus' life for our salvation was according to God's plan! The Gospel of Matthew is particularly plentiful in providing details of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.

This plan meant that Jesus, His only-begotten Son, would be delivered up and crucified. He would be killed at the hands of lawless men. Finally, He was raised up, loosing the pangs of death. Now, He is sitting at the right hand of God.

Now, from the Father, Jesus has poured out this baptism of the Holy Spirit that began on the day of Pentecost and continues to this very day through word and sacrament.

The crucified Jesus is now Lord and Christ. All who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Prayer: O God, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit You pour the gifts of love into the hearts of Your faithful people. Grant Your servants health both of mind and body that they may love You with their whole heart and with their whole strength perform those things that are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

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

C Amen.

Gradual Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

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

C and his greatness is unsearchable.

L On your wondrous works, I will meditate,

C and I will declare your greatness.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 6:3b

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

C Alleluia, Alleluia. The whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

We end this week where we began, with the unsearchable greatness of God. The oft-repeated mantra of the last 27 or so months has been, “follow the science.” When it was first spoken, I imagine that most of us nodded in agreement. However, as “following the science” seemed to become more tainted with politics than substance, many became jaded. Now it seems as though that little phrase might need a bit of a rest.

What we have learned is that science is limited. Science is not an omnipotent God. Rather, it is women and men who examine evidence and reach conclusions. Like all men and women, they are fallible. They follow faulty or limited evidence. They reach wrong conclusions that must be modified.

However, this week we have been reminded that even when the best minds follow the best evidence and reach the best conclusions, they are unable to do research into the mind of God. His greatness is unsearchable.

His mercy is beyond scientific investigation. His grace is beyond human reason. His plan of salvation is beyond imagination. God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life—Inconceivable!

Prayer: O Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks that of Your great goodness and mercy Your only-begotten Son became incarnate to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. Enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may forever give You thanks for Your grace and be strengthened in all times of tribulation and temptation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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