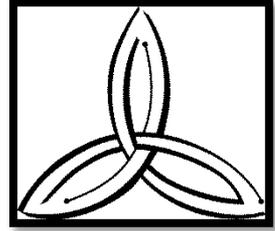


THE HOLY TRINITY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., MAY 30, 2021

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.



Welcome to guests and visitors! This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **☒** and **bold font**. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X). "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI). "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

Following the introductory verses, a welcome and introduction to the day are made.

GATHERING PSALM (8)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.

¹O Lord our Lord,

☒ how exalted is your name in all the world!

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²Out of the mouths of infants and children
☩ your majesty is praised above the heavens.

³You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
☩ to quell the enemy and the avenger.

⁴When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
☩ the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁵what is man that you should be mindful of him,
☩ the son of man that you should seek him out?

⁶You have made him but little lower than the angels;
☩ you adorn him with glory and honor;

⁷you give him mastery over the works of your hands;
☩ you put all things under his feet:

Glory 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.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☩ And also with you.

LITANY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Blessed be the holy Trinity and undivided Unity;
☩ we will give glory to him, because he has shown his mercy to us.

O Lord our Lord, how wonderful is your name in all the earth!
**☩ O the depth of the riches
of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God!**

Lord,
☩ have mercy.

Christ,

☩ have mercy.

Lord,

☩ have mercy.

Blessed Trinity,

☩ hear us.

Adorable Unity,

☩ graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,

☩ have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

☩ have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

☩ have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,

☩ have mercy on us.

Father, from whom are all things, Son, through whom are all things,
Holy Spirit, in whom are all things,

☩ have mercy on us.

Holy and undivided Trinity,

☩ have mercy on us.

Eternal Father, only Son of the Father, Spirit who proceeds from the
Father and the Son,

☩ have mercy on us.

Co-eternal majesty of three divine persons,

☩ have mercy on us.

Father, the Creator, Son, the Redeemer, Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
☩ have mercy on us.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, who is, who was, and who is to
come, God most high, who inhabits eternity, to whom alone are due
all honor and glory, who alone does great wonders, power infinite,
wisdom incomprehensible, love unspeakable,
☩ have mercy on us.

Be merciful,
☩ spare us, O Holy Trinity.

Be merciful,
☩ graciously hear us, O Holy Trinity.

From all evil,
☩ deliver us, O Holy Trinity.

From all sin,
☩ deliver us, O Holy Trinity.

From all pride, from all love of riches, from all uncleanness, from all
laziness, from all misdirected love, from all envy and malice, from all
anger and impatience, from every thought, word, and deed contrary
to your holy law, from your everlasting condemnation,
☩ deliver us, O Holy Trinity.

Through your almighty power, through your abundant loving
kindness, through the exceeding treasure of your goodness and love,
through the depths of your wisdom and knowledge, through all your
unspeakable perfections,
☩ deliver us, O Holy Trinity.

We sinners pray,
☩ hear us.

That we may always serve you alone, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth, that we may love you with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength,

☩ we pray, hear us.

That, for your sake, we may love our neighbors as ourselves, that we may faithfully keep your holy commandments, that we may never defile our bodies and souls with sin, that we may go from grace to grace, and from virtue to virtue, that we may finally enjoy the sight of you in glory, that you would hear us,

☩ we pray, hear us.

O blessed Trinity,

☩ deliver us.

O blessed Trinity,

☩ save us.

O blessed Trinity,

☩ have mercy on us.

Lord,

☩ have mercy,

Christ,

☩ have mercy.

Lord,

☩ have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *180 Group video.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

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

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And 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!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The 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.” ⁸Then 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!”

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**☒ ²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**☒ ⁴The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**☒ ⁶he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord
shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**☒ ⁸The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

⁹And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!”

**☒ ¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**☒ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Blessed are You, O Lord,
who behold the depths and are enthroned upon the Cherubim.

**☩ Blessed are You, O Lord,
in the firmament of heaven, and worthy of praise forever.**

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

☩ God's glory fills the whole earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
²He 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." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus 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?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The 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." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"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. ¹²If I have

told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“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.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Ellen Westlund*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE ATHANASIAN CREED

[There are two essentials of the faith “according to the whole” (catholic) Church. The first is the Trinity, one God in three persons. The second is the two natures, both divine and human, of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

What does the Church believe about the Trinity?]

☩ We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity,

neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.

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

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

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

Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.

☒ The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite.

Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit:

☒ And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal;

as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited.

☒ Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit:

And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.

☒ Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:

And yet there are not three gods, but one God.

☒ Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord:

And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.

☒ As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,

so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

☒ The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten;

the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father;

☒ the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Thus there is one Father, not three fathers;
one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

**☒ And in this Trinity, no one is before or after,
greater or less than the other;**

but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal;
**and so we must worship the Trinity in unity
and the one God in three persons.**

[And what does the Church believe about the two natures of Jesus
the Christ, his humanity and divinity?]

**☒ This is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,

☒ and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother—

existing fully as God, and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;

**☒ equal to the Father in divinity,
subordinate to the Father in humanity.**

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.

☒ He is united because God has taken humanity into himself;

he does not transform deity into humanity.

**☒ He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.**

For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.

☒ He suffered death for our salvation.

**He descended into hell
and rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[The Church has faith in these essentials, even as we admit they are incomprehensible. We express them in paradox and confess them with confidence.]

☩ Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty!

☩ Just and true are your ways, King of the nations!

⁴Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name?

☩ For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before you,

☩ for your judgments have been revealed.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☞ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: You are one God yet three persons for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together we acclaim:

☞ Almighty is the Father! Almighty is the Son! Almighty is the Spirit!

And so, most holy God, we sing your praises and give you thanks
O Blessed Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**☞ 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.

☞ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☞ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (78)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☞ Amen.

¹Hear my teaching, O my people;

☞ incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

³That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers
have told us,

☞ we will not hide from their children.

⁴We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and
the power of the Lord,

☞ and the wonderful works he has done.

²³So he commanded the clouds above

☞ and opened the doors of heaven.

²⁴He rained down manna upon them to eat
☞ and gave them grain from heaven.

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
☞ he provided for them food enough.

²⁷He rained down flesh upon them like dust
☞ and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

Glory 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☞ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Those who remain in the sanctuary following the postlude may sing the sending song. Others should depart during the postlude.

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Bring Your Questions

Although Nicodemus comes to Jesus claiming to know that Jesus comes from God, it is clear from the remainder of the conversation that he has deep questions on his heart. And after all of Jesus' talk of being born of water and Spirit Nicodemus almost pleads: "How can these things be?" (John 3:9).

What questions do you bring to worship with you today?

As we gather around the baptismal font, we do so with Luther's reminder that "daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1165). We too might ask, "How can these things be?" Does today feel like a new day of righteousness and purity? Does today feel any different than yesterday or the day before? Sometimes the answer is yes, but often it does not seem there is anything "new" about any given day.

Throughout the gospels we hear about people's responses to their encounters with Jesus. They go away healed and rejoicing, grieving or angry. We get no such exit with Nicodemus. Jesus speaks about God's love for the world and is soon on the move again. What happened to Nicodemus? He will reappear in the seventh chapter of John, defending Jesus as the leaders wonder why Jesus has not been arrested, and in the nineteenth chapter to help lay Jesus in the tomb. In both cases today's encounter with Jesus is remembered. It seems that Nicodemus's questions and his struggle to understand are the beginning of a slow reshaping of his life.

Bring your questions to the water today. Bring your questions again and again. Dip your hands in the water; mark yourself with the cross; know that the water and the Spirit will reshape you in ways you may not understand today but will certainly remember in later chapters of life.

