

The Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hermiston, Oregon

The Lord be with you! The Lord's Supper is celebrated this morning in the confidence that, as He says, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His very body and blood to eat and drink (Matthew 26:26-28). This meal is given to us for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and our love for one another.

Because the Scriptures tell us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner are doing themselves great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and because Holy Communion is a sharing in the faith confessed at this altar, the following are asked to consult with the pastor before taking communion:

- any who are not yet instructed in the Christian faith;
- those who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

If you are visiting us this morning and would like to receive a blessing at the altar we invite you to come forward. To let those serving communion know you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest and bow your head – see image to the right.



Call to Worship

from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Matthew 28:19 NIV

P: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

C: Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

[Hebrews 10:22], Psalm 124:8, Psalm 32:5, and John 20:19-23

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, by word, and by deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us,
have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins;
and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will
and true obedience to Your Word,
to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Collect for Sunday of The Holy Trinity

P: 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;

C: for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Confessing Faith in God the Father

P: I ask you now to proclaim to one another and to the world what you believe concerning God the Father.

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

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God has created me and all that exists;
that He has given me and still sustains my body and soul,
all my limbs and senses,
my reason and all the faculties of my mind,
together with food and clothing,
house and home,
family and property;
that He provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life,
protects me from all danger,
and preserves me from all evil.**

**All this He does out of His pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness on my part.**

**For all of this I am bound to thank,
praise, serve,
and obey Him.**

This is most certainly true.¹



Scripture Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

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!

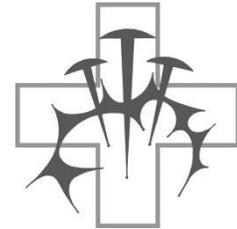
Confessing Faith in God the Son

P: I ask you now to proclaim to one another and to the world what you believe concerning God the Son.

C: I believe 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.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary,
is my Lord,
Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature,
delivered me and freed me from all sins,
from death,
and from the power of the devil,
not with silver and gold but with His holy and precious blood
and with His innocent sufferings and death,
in order that I may be His,
live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.¹



Hymn #507 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

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!

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.

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.

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!

Text: Public domain

Sermon

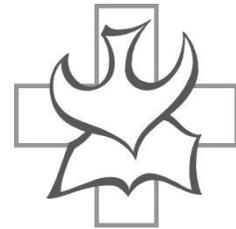
Confessing Faith in God the Holy Spirit

P: I ask you now to proclaim to one another and to the world what you believe concerning God the Holy Spirit.

**C: 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**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that by my own reason or strength
I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.
But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel,
enlightened me with His gifts,
and sanctified and preserved me in true faith,
just as He calls, gathers, enlightens,
and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth
and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian church He daily and abundantly forgives all my sins,
and the sins of all believers,
and on the last day He will raise me and all the dead
and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ.
This is most certainly true.¹**



Prayer of the Church

Athanasian Creed (first half)

This anonymous creed arose in the 5th Century and is named after St. Athanasius (c. 296–298 – 2 May 373) – a strong defender of the Trinity and the Divinity of Jesus. The Athanasian Creed declares that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord’s incarnation are “the catholic faith.”
In other words, this is what the true Church of all times and all places has confessed.

P: 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,

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 Infinities, 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 Almightyies, 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.

The Lord's Supper

Dismissal (after all have communed)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Psalm 67

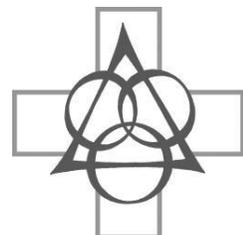
P: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

C: The earth has yielded its increase, God, our God, shall bless us.

All: God shall bless us, let all the ends of the earth fear Him!



Hymn #830 “Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev’rywhere His creatures call
To His heav’nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father’s will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer’s grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion’s price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv’n
Now to guide us on to heav’n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath’ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Public domain

¹Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). *The book of concord : The confessions of the evangelical Lutheran church* (The Small Catechism: II, 2, 4 & 6). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.