1st Sunday after Easter-The Holy Trinity

The Season After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

The Sunday We believe in the Triune God. The third and longest of the ecumenical creeds underscores the importance of this Sunday's message. The doctrine of the Trinity is not a logical exercise or a dogmatic excursion. It's central to our salvation. The Triune God is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Lose this doctrine, and as the Creed says, you lose it all. A Jesus who is less than God is also less than Savior. *The Holy Ministry proclaims the Triune God.*

Hvmn Baptized into Your Name Most Holy CW 294 0 Bap - tized your lv. 1 in to name most ho 2 Μv То lov ing Fa ther. there vou took me 3 My faith _ fuľ God. you fail me Your nev er; 4 All that I am and love most dear lv Re -Fa ther. Ho ly Ghost. I claim _ Son. and а be hence forth your child and heir. Mv faith ful _ _ Oĥ. - ise sure lv will dure. cast me prom en all. Ó from ceive it Lord. me. Let me con place, though weak and low ly, A mong vour saints, vour _ The vour Sav _ ior. there vou let me fruit of all If not а wav for ev er words and deeds be fess faith And help sin _ cere me own my ly vour with cho host. Bur ied Christ and dead to sen 0 Но it. share. ly Spir com fort sor _ rows -_ Have when I de come im _ pure. mer - cy come child be! Let noth - ing that I to am or sin. Your Spir - it shall live with in. now me When threat - 'ning clouds a round I see. filed: For _ give. lift re - store vour child. up, own Serve an y will but vours а lone.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (KÖNIG) (98 98 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

Stand



forgiveness through

the life and death of Christ. This is the

focus of our worship.

Text: Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

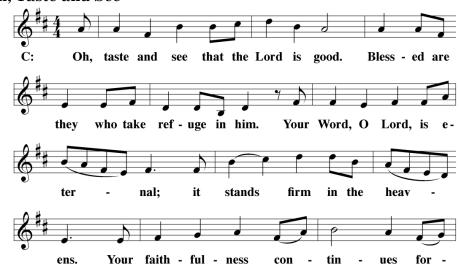
- M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Oh, Taste and See



Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson:

Genesis 1:1-2:3

When we read the account of creation, we see all three persons of the Godhead at work. We read verse 1 in the context of Psalm 104 and John 1. God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—created a home for the crown of his creation. The Trinity was speaking to itself and of itself in the amazing words that displayed God's intent for humankind: Let us make man in our image. The Triune God planned for creation's crown to conform to His image. When Adam fell, it was the Triune God who resolved to restore man to the perfection in which he had been created. This plan to restore holiness to the world would involve all three persons to choose us, to redeem us, to call us to himself.

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.
- ⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.
- ⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

- ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.
- ²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.
- ²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the

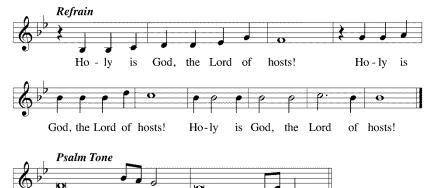
creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 150 CWS



Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty <u>heavens</u>.

Praise him for his acts of <u>power</u>; praise him for his surpassing <u>greatness</u>.

Refrain

Praise him with the sounding of the <u>trumpet</u>, praise him with the <u>harp</u> and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and <u>danc</u>ing, praise him with <u>strings</u> and flute,

praise him with the clash of <u>cym</u>bals, praise him with resounding <u>cym</u>bals.

Let everything that has breath <u>praise</u> the LORD. Praise <u>the</u> LORD.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

The grace, the love, the fellowship. That is the story of the Trinity in the lives of believers. Grace is that which we don't deserve; God's love is what drove it; our fellowship with God and with each other is its result. We trust in God the Father, who fills us with hope. We trust in the Lord Jesus Christ: Lord—the one who bought us; Jesus—the name he carried here on earth when he came to save us; Christ—the office he filled for our salvation. We trust in the Holy Spirit, who called us by his power and causes us to overflow with hope and love for our fellowman.

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All God's people here send their greetings.

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia. (Isaiah 6:3b)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 28.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 28:16-20

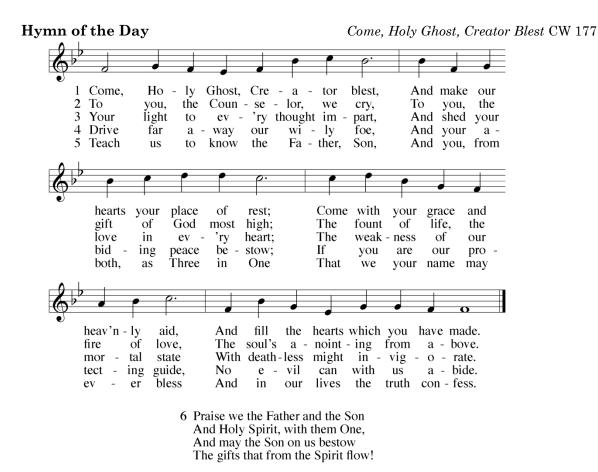
On a mountain in Galilee they met a man who had died, but lived again. Some of his disciples doubted, but the ones that believed his word bent the knee and worshipped this man as God. If what this man said was true, then God had died for them; God had risen for them; and now, God himself was calling them to a ministry for all nations. God reveals himself as triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The God who made us is the God who saved us and is still the God who sets us apart. Many ancient heresies wanted to make Jesus less than a man. Most modern heresies don't bother making him anything more than a man. But the Church teaches all nations to obey everything Jesus commanded us.

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated



Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Tune: KOMM, GOTT SCHÖPFER (LM) Klug, Geistliche lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533.

Sermon

Everything?

Matthew 28:16-20

Stand

The Athanasian Creed

Read responsively. The Congregation will read the indented lines.

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

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

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

forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-is distinct,

but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one,

equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

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

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

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

the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal;

yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

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

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

yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

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

yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord,

so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

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

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

The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten,

but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

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

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior,

but all three persons are coequal and coeternal,

so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God

and one God worshiped as three persons.

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

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time

from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,

one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,

and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies

to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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. M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen

Be Seated

Hymn



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