



“HOW CAN THIS BE?”

Sunday, May 30, 2021 9:00AM

Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we do not so much explain God as confess Him. We testify to Him who has revealed Himself to us. To the mind in search of reasonable answers, God will always be a question or riddle to be solved. But to the empty heart, the Holy Spirit leads us to see with faith the God whose majesty has worked for our salvation and whose mercy has rescued us sinners from sin and the grave. Like Nicodemus of old, we want to know how, yet our Lord gives us not the how, but the who; not the explanation, but the mystery of mercy big enough to save us. We come today confessing with our fathers in faith the Athanasian Creed, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and rejoicing in the God who is bigger than we are, but who becomes one of us to save us.

+ DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE +

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

LSB 507 sts. 1-4

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

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Stand

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

C Amen.

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.

P 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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT

P Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

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

P I have set the LORD always before me;

C because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

C my flesh also dwells secure.

P For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

C or let your holy one see corruption.

P You make known to me the path of life;

C in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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.

P Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

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

♪ KYRIE (LSB 186)

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (LSB 187)

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

P Today is Holy Trinity, the First Sunday after Pentecost. The festival half of the Church Year, which has confessed the saving events in the life of our Lord, now gives way to that part of the Church Year in which we hear His teaching. From the Old Testament Reading from Isaiah, we witness a glimpse of the glory of the Lord, the God of Sabaoth, whose power is chiefly known in showing mercy. In the Epistle from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear another part of the Pentecost sermon of Peter attesting to the revelation of Jesus as both Lord and Christ. In the Gospel according to John, we hear Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and within this we hear the most beloved and familiar verse of Scripture.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 6:1–8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

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

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

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

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

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.²⁴ God 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

♪ ALLELUIA (*LSB 190*)

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1–17

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he

who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Sit

ATHANASIAN CREED

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

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

P And the catholic faith is this,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

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

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

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

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

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

P but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

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

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

C Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

P He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

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

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

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

- P** one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C** **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
- P** For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C** **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**
- P** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- C** **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**
- P** And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- C** **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

HYMN of the DAY

“Glory Be to God the Father”

LSB 506

- 1 Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory
While eternal ages run!
- 2 Glory be to Him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory
To the Lamb that once was slain!
- 3 Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church’s King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav’n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory
To the King of glory sing!
- 4 Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow’r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory,
Glory to the King of kings!

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SERMON

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
- C** **Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages!**

- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we trust in You and confess without fear the name of the triune God with which we were marked in Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we approach the mystery of Your presence with awe, confident of Your mercy that forgives our sins and comforted by Your power that delivers us from everlasting death. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that Your Church be firmly established in this faith, united in the truth of Your Word, and served by faithful pastors and church workers who will faithfully minister to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that missionaries far and near be protected by Your power and blessed in their service so that many may hear, and hearing, believe in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that those who suffer afflictions of body and mind be delivered according to Your will, sustained by Your presence, and delivered to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that knowing Your goodness in creation, we use Your gifts wisely and for the benefit of all people and bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, to remember those who went before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, and guide us that we faithfully confess Your name until we join them in Your nearer presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we find contentment of heart and that we know the riches of Your mercy as our greatest treasure in life and our hope in death. Lord in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
- C** **Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages!**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus and with the words He has taught us:

- 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.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

O God, who gave Your Holy Spirit to the apostles, grant us that same Spirit that we may live in faith and abide in peace; 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

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

LSB 794

1 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.

2 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav’nly good.

3 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support
In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav’nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,

God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.

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