

The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

June 11, 2017



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street, Wrightstown WI, 54180

www.stjlw.com

Pastor Mike Gehl (pastorgehl@gmail.com)..... (920) 309-5171
Church Office (church@stjlw.com) (920) 532-4865
School Office (stjls@gmail.com) (920) 532-4361
Mr. Timothy Raddatz, Principal, Grades 4-8 (920) 636-5007
Mrs. Jennifer Bunn, Grades 1-3 (920) 217-3405
Mrs. Rebecca Wicks, Pre-K and K..... (920) 809-8648
Miss. Jamie Buss, Preschool and Pre-K (920) 538-0470
Mr. Terry Sieker, Congregation President (920) 864-7307
Fox Valley Lutheran High School (920) 739-4441

Service Theme for Trinity Sunday: We believe in the Triune God. "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" (Athanasian Creed). 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.

Order of Worship: Divine Service I

Opening Hymn....."Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" (CW 241)

Greeting

In the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy.....(Kyrie)

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

glo - rious reign From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain— Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

1

2 May this kings.

Tune: MAY THE PEACE OF GOD (10 9 10 9 and Refrain)
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Closing Prayer

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing / Closing Hymn "May the Peace of God" (CWS 745)

1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa -
 peace which pass - es un - der - stand -
 ther, And the grace of Christ the ris - en
 ing, And this grace which makes us what we
 Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the
 are, And this fel - low-ship of his Com -
 Spir - it Keep our hearts and minds with - in his
 mun - ion Make us one in spir - it and in
Refrain
 love. heart. And to him be praise for his

Prayer and Praise

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

Glory to God..... (Gloria in Excelsis)

C Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
 earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. You are
 seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re -
 ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Sermon Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

The Triune God Blessed the World from Day One.

He blessed it with perfection.

He blessed it with purpose.

Create in Me

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Thank-Offering

These offerings are used to support the ministries of our church, both locally and worldwide. Our guests should not feel compelled to give an offering, but may do so if they desire.

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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 worshipped as one God, and one God worshipped as three persons.

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

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day..... "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" (CW 195)

The Word

First Lesson Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 (EHV)

Although the Bible ascribes certain works to each person (the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier), the external acts of the Godhead are shared. The Father created, the Son created, the Spirit created. The Father sanctifies, the Son sanctifies, the Spirit sanctifies. So when we read the account of creation here, 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.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was undeveloped and empty. Darkness covered the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was evening and there was morning—the first day. ⁶God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, and let it separate the water from the water." ⁷God made the expanse, and he separated the water that was below the expanse from the water that was above the expanse, and it was so. ⁸God called the expanse "sky." There was evening and there was morning—the second day. ⁹God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear," and it was so. The waters under the sky gathered to their own places, and the dry land appeared. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land," and the gathering places of the waters he called "seas." God saw that it was good. ¹¹God said, "Let the earth produce plants—vegetation that produces seed, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it—each according to its own kind on the earth," and it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth plants, vegetation that produces seed according to its own kind, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it, each according to its own kind, and God saw that it was good. ¹³There was evening and there was morning—the third day. ¹⁴God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night, and let them serve as markers to indicate seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth," and it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in place in the expanse of the sky to provide light for the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening and there was morning—the fourth day. ²⁰God said, "Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds and other winged creatures fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky." ²¹God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their own kind, and every winged bird according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them when he said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³There was evening and there was morning—the fifth day. ²⁴God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind," and it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that

it was good. ²⁶God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls on the earth.” ²⁷God created the man in his own image. In the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹God said, “Look, I have given you every plant that produces seed on the face of the whole earth, and every tree that bears fruit that produces seed. It will be your food. ³⁰To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day. ^{2:1}The heavens and the earth were finished, along with everything in them. ²On the seventh day God had finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. ³God blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy, because on it he rested from all his work of creation that he had done.

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 13:11-14 (EHV)

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 by that same power causes us to overflow with hope and love for our fellowman.

¹¹Finally, brothers, rejoice. Set things in order. Be encouraged. Agree with one another. Be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³All the saints greet you. ¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Verse of the Day Isaiah 6:3b

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 28:16-20 (EHV)

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.

Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the 28th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 16th verse.



¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. ¹⁸Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.”

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



The Athanasian Creed

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 saving faith.

The section of the Athanasian Creed included here is the portion that confesses the Bible's teaching about the Triune God. This portion serves as a very fitting confession of faith for Trinity Sunday. A translation of the entire text of the Athanasian Creed may be found on pages 132-133 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

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.