

Holy Trinity Sunday

June 12, 2022

Introduction to the Day

“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God’s love and hope to our neighbors.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of
one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

#413, vs. 1,2,4

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Reading: Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Gospel: John 16:12-15

[Jesus said,] ¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Our youngest child has gotten to the point in being a toddler where he has started to answer his own questions with, “Why because?” For so long we have responded to his “Why” questions with “Why? Because.” He has skipped the step of waiting for response and jumped right to it himself.

It is human nature to want to know why. And how. And when. And where. And who. We simply want to know every detail of every thing possible, and we often don’t stop until we get those details.

We engage in this continued pursuit of the unfindable because we want things to make sense. If something doesn’t make sense to us, we do not stop. It is simply human nature to continue to search.

To find the answers.

To make things make sense.

We even go as far as, when asking someone to explain something to us, to tell them to explain it to me like I am a 5 year old. Guess what. You know what a 5 year old’s favorite question is? WHY!

This continued desire to have all the knowledge and everything in perfect order making perfect sense is why we struggled with the core concept of this Holy Trinity Sunday.

We celebrate this day a God who is eternal 3 in 1, and majestic 1 in 3. We celebrate this day a God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and allllllll that this means for us as people of faith.

Yet, that relationship, the relationship of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – doesn’t make a whole lot of sense. It is the source of some of the greatest confirmation debates/arguments. Because we want things to make sense.

And, put simply, it doesn’t make sense that God is Father – God is Son – God is Holy Spirit.

Because, you see, Father is not Son, Son is not Holy Spirit, and Holy Spirit is not Father.

And we don’t like that. Because it doesn’t line up with our linear way of thinking and everything needing to make sense, we struggle with this understanding.

And, unfortunately, the church response is to try and make it make sense. In doing so, those in religious academia will be quick to point out what is wrong with whatever analogies might be offered when people simply want this Triune God explained to them like they are 5 year olds.

You see, we could say that the Trinity is like a 3 leaf clover. Each leaf is its own, but each is part of the greater plant.

Or, the Trinity is like an apple. You've got the seed, the meat, and the skin. All each their own, but each part of the apple.

How about water. Comes in solid form, liquid form, and gas form. Each form its own. Each form is water.

Try a peanut M&M. There is a shell, the chocolate, and the peanut. Each thing its own, but part of the greater M&M.

Yes, those give us an idea, they perhaps illustrate the point, but are we really going to reduce the wonder and majesty of the Triune God to a peanut M&M? And, if we do, does it really get at the mystery of the Trinity?

As people of faith, what if we were okay with something NOT making sense. After all, doesn't much of our life of faith not make sense? That God would create human from the mud of the earth, breathe life into it, sparing a rib to create a partner, and give them dominion over all things on earth? Does that really make sense?

Does it really make sense that God would look at all that humans were doing wrong and choose a man who was upright and holy to build an ark and fill it with 2 of every animal on the earth, so that they would survive the flood that was to come to earth? Does that really make sense?

Does it make sense that God would give God's son as a sacrifice for all sin, that whoever would believe would not perish but have eternal life? Does that really make sense?

Does it really make sense that God's son would choose 12 followers to go out into the world to share the Good News of God's Love for God's people, and their marching orders would be simple, a simple greatest commandment, "love one another as God has loved you." Do we really think that plan makes sense?

And does it make sense, that in his final motivational speech to his followers that Jesus would promise them an advocate that would come to them and their troubled hearts in difficult times, to teach them new and remind them of what they already know. This doesn't make sense.

Yet, here we are. The plan worked. We HAVE come to believe because of the witness of those followers who did indeed go out into the world with the greatest commandment on their hearts. They loved. And, in their loving, they spoke of God's love. But, not only did they speak of it, they lived it.

They knew that God, their creator – redeemer – sustainer God, brought them to their time and their place with their purpose: To make God's love known to God's people. Not to try and make sense of it, but to make sure that the love is known...to ALL people.

They did this through relationship, and just as the relationship of the Triune God is one that doesn't make sense, their moments of relationships didn't always make sense, and they weren't always neat, and not always pretty. But, they were there. And, they were holy. And needed. And life giving.

People of God, this doesn't need to make sense. The mystery and majesty of the Holy Trinity isn't for us to figure out and make it make sense. Rather it is to admit that we may be called into beautifully messy relationships ourselves. And when we ask "why," to hear God's "because." And trust and believe it is a relationship ordained by God. Our Creator. Redeemer. And Sustainer.

Even if it doesn't make sense.

Even when we don't feel we deserve.

It is a relationship rooted in God's unconditional love, grace, and mercy.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Baptism of Kylie Mai Jasmer, daughter of Kyle Jasmer and Erica Mai. Her sponsors are Christine Gessner and Shannon Potocnik.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your church the hope of sharing in your glory. Enliven us by your Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator of all, you rejoice in creation and have given humankind responsibility for the works of your hands. Instill in everyone your Spirit of care for the earth, especially in areas threatened by ecological devastation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy Three, you are community and you create community. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our congregation and beyond. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death (*especially the Emanuel Nine, whom we commemorate this week*). Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Communion

Prayer

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Shout to the Lord”

#821

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Savers Fundraiser

The Shepherd's Closet folks are doing another Saver's Fundraiser. If you have bags of cloth items to donate, please have them in medium-large garbage bags, and label them Savers. Have them to the church by **Monday, June 13, by noon.**

Fortune Cookies

Join ARDC and Mayo Clinic Health System for a FREE event, "Fortune Cookies," a one act play about memory loss. The event will be held at Jacob's Well Church Tuesday, June 14, with Resource Booths open at 5 p.m. and dinner served at 5:30. The play and conversation follow at 6. There will be door prizes as well. Reservations are required by calling 715-839-4735 or [online](#).

Mona has a great idea! This vibrant octogenarian is determined to be the first to know if her recall is slipping beyond what can be considered normal, age-related memory loss. An unexpected visit from her son reveals that she has cooked up a way to help herself and others be on the lookout for the early stages of dementia.

Sunday event

Looking for something fun to do on Sunday afternoons? Bring the kids to the train at Carson Park between 12-5 p.m! Adults are \$3, kids 3-12 are \$2, under 3 are free. [Check it out!](#) You will see a familiar face driving one of the trains!

If you have prayer requests or needs that we can help with, please contact any one of us. pastorlcgsec@gmail.com, lcgseauclaire@gmail.com and annecyf18@gmail.com.