

Holy Trinity Sunday – May 26, 2024

Introduction to the Day

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

**Greeting – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

And also with you.

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from  
the ways**

**of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your  
ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”**

**#413 vs. 1,2,4**

**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 – Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Children’s Message**

### **Gospel – John 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of our 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

We have come to that day in the Liturgical Calendar where try to make sense of the 3 part relationship of the Triune God. A God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, all three of which are God, yet none of which are each other.

However, we are not going to try to make sense of that today, we aren’t even going to ponder that mystery at all. We are simply going to look at what this, one of the most known passages in scripture, for both church and unchurched folks, and let it speak for itself.

What is happening here?

Nicodemus, a wealthy man of pride and entitlement comes to Jesus under the cover of dark, at night, so as to not be seen by his equals.

He WANTS to be at Jesus feet, he WANTS to wonder about this whole mystery that is the goodness of God’s grace and mercy for God’s people, but he doesn’t want anyone, especially his equals, to see him asking. So, we find ourselves with Jesus and Nic under the cover of darkness having this conversation.

Now, Nicodemus straight up NAMES the exact mystery that we ponder today.

“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

Nicodemus straight up admits, there is no way that Jesus ISN’T from God.

Jesus OF COURSE responds in riddle form bringing up this idea of being born from above. Nic is confused, asking how anyone can be born again. He takes him literally. Surely one can’t enter the womb again. And, with that, the creator and parent figure of the Triune God is introduced.

The dialogue continues.

Jesus states, “The *wind* blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it come from or where it goes.”

This seems an innocent statement, one that wouldn’t or shouldn’t garner some attention.

But, when we look further at the language that is used here, a second element of the trinity is introduced. In the Greek that the Gospels were written in, the word translated here as “*wind*” is the same word used for “*spirit*,” and can be translated “*breath*.” The Hebrew word for “*spirit*,” *ruah* has similar meanings.

Again, seems innocent. At the very best a flyover figure of speech used by Jesus. But, he is actually introducing the sustaining spirit part of the Trinity is discussed.

And, the conversation continues.

Jesus makes a turn here and uses stories that Nicodemus, a Jewish leader, is going to know well.

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

Nicodemus knows this story of Moses and the serpent found in Numbers. Jesus is introducing to him, and us, the many ways in which the Son of Man will be “lifted up in John’s Gospel telling.

And, Jesus takes it a step further, introducing again and perhaps the most known verse in all of scripture. “For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son, that whoever would believe in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.”

And, in doing so, the redeeming Son of the Triune God is introduced.

But. He does not. Stop. There.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Period.

We so often think otherwise. We so often think of our questions and wonderings about faith and how all of this makes sense, or doesn’t, and that fear of condemnation sneaks in.

Is it okay to be mad at God? Do I lack faith if I doubt? What if I’m not so sure about all of this stuff? These are all questions we ask ourselves to some extent at some point in our lives.

But, the Gospel, the Hope, the Good News of God's Love for God's People is that God created us for just the opposite. God redeemed us for just the opposite. God sustains us for just the opposite.

Not out of condemnation. But out of love. A love that surpasses all that we might question in the world and think is unlovable about it, and us. God – creator, redeemer, and sustainer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – loves.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

**Hymn of the Day**                      **“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”**                      **#857**

### **Apostle's Creed**

### **Prayers**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing (*We pray especially for Matt, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Cherri, Peggy, John, Judy, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Dan and Sharon, Roger and MaryLee,*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints (*especially*). As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

**Offering**

### Offertory Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

**Amen**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Hymns #471 & #481**

### Lord's Prayer

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

### Post Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

**“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”**

**#774**

### Sending

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!  
**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.**  
And all of Good Shepherd said,  
**“AMEN”**

## Your Generosity in Action:

Did you know:

At Good Shepherd we have started saying yes.  
For a long time we have directed folks to where else they might find help. Now? We've started to offer it. Because of your generosity and supporting our Mission Plan, we are able to say yes to provide gas and groceries when people call and ask.  
Want to help with this effort? Talk to Pastor Josh today!



## THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Difference
	<b>\$16,724</b>	<b>\$21,125</b>	<b>-\$4,401</b>
	2023: \$27,688	2023: \$23,760	Checkbook Available thru April \$25,932

**NO CHILD  
IN SCHOOL  
WITHOUT  
NEW  
SNEAKERS**



Help us fill  
Shepherd's  
Closet with  
sneakers for  
their Aug. 8  
Give-Away.

Shepherd's Closet



Children's sizes 10-13  
Girls/Women and Boys/Men size 1-8



Lutheran Church of the  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
KNOWN - SEEN - LOVED



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE  
Matching Gift Challenge

Cedar St

At the Congregational Meeting on April 28, the people of Good Shepherd approved entering into a contract with consultants from GSB Consulting to lead us through our Capital Campaign process.

Consultants do not come free, and the Good Shepherd Leadership Team has stepped up with a challenge. To date, the Leadership Team has committed \$13,600 towards the \$35,500 Consultant Fee.

We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift towards this \$13,600 matching gift challenge.

A graphic for a fundraiser. It features a blue background with a white grid pattern. In the center is a large blue oval containing the text 'SAVER'S FUNDRAISER JUNE 20 DROP ITEMS OFF MARKED "SAVERS"'. Surrounding the oval are illustrations of clothing items: a yellow sweater with red and white patterns, yellow shorts with a red and white grid pattern, and a yellow shirt with red and white floral patterns. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

**SAVER'S  
FUNDRAISER  
JUNE 20  
DROP ITEMS OFF  
MARKED "SAVERS"**

Thank you for your support as we split the funds with  
Capital Campaign and CV St. Ministry.