

THE HOLY TRINITY

June 12, 2022



AS WE GATHER

Holy Trinity, a time we commemorate and celebrate, is different than any other recognized time in the Church Year. Unlike Christmas, Easter, or last week's Pentecost, where we rejoice in and reflect upon an action of God for our salvation, Holy Trinity is a time to rejoice in and reflect upon a *doctrine*. We gather around our shared confession of God as we know Him to be in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even in the mystery of things we cannot fully understand or comprehend by our own reason, we trust God's revelation through His Word made known to us of who He is and what He has done, that apart from Him there is no other.

+ PREPARATION +4444

OPENING HYMN LSB 905 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name
Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim
Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.
LSB 940:5

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we approach our triune God and gather in His majestic name, we draw near with a true heart and confess our sins.

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness.**

Pastor: We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing.

People: **We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, heavenly Father, because of the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

People: **Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully. Set our feet upon the new path of life, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). He alone, with the Father and the Spirit, is the one who has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

+ WORD +

INTRODUCTION (Athanasian Creed, LSB Page 319)

Pastor: Through our worship, we will progressively and responsively confess the Athanasian Creed. As the more commonly confessed Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were written and doctrinally accepted according to God's Word in defense to the heresies of the time and applicable still today, so also the Athanasian Creed was written and doctrinally accepted to refute false teachings regarding the Scripturally revealed identity and work of the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we hold the "catholic faith," the Athanasian Creed refers to "catholic" as the true Church of all times and places who faithfully confess the true Christ as Lord and Savior.

ATHANASIAN CREED *Part 1*

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

People: **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**

Pastor: And the catholic faith is this,

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

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

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

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

People: **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

Pastor: the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

People: **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**

Pastor: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

People: **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

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

People: **and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.**

Pastor: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

People: **and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

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

People: **and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

HYMN **LSB #940 “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” (Sts. 1-2)**

KYRIE

Pastor: God the Father in heaven,

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of people's souls

People: **have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

People: **we praise You for revealing to us Your love and mercy.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

People: **Let us give glory to Him because He has shown us His mercy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of the true faith and to worship the true Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from our adversaries; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (*The Blessings of Wisdom*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING Acts 2:14a, 22-36 (*Peter's Pentecost Sermon affirming all of the Lord's Work*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN LSB #507 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

ATHANASIAN CREED Part 2

Pastor: 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.

People: **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**

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

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

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

People: **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**

HYMN LSB #940 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (Sts. 3-4)

GOSPEL John 8:48-59 (*Before Abraham was I Am*) (stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(*The Gospel is read.*)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY- LSB #953 "We All Believe in One True God"

SERMON Rev. Lowell Dennis, Emeritus

INTRODUCTION to Part 3 of the Athanasian Creed

Pastor: As we confess in this creed the work and identity of the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with all founded in and supported throughout Scripture, the Athanasian Creed closes with a reminder of judgment and the Last Day to come. Though reference is made to works, works are not the basis of our salvation. Only those who by faith believe in Jesus Christ for salvation are able to do good works in God's sight, and the good works done are fruits of the saving faith in Christ given through the Holy Spirit.

ATHANASIAN CREED *Part 3*

- Pastor: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- People: **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.**
- Pastor: 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:
- People: **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**
- Pastor: equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- People: **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**
- Pastor: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- People: **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
- Pastor: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- People: **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**
- Pastor: 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.
- People: **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**
- Pastor: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- People: **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**
- HYMN **LSB #940 (St. 5) "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (stand)**
(Note: The Offerings are brought forward as vs. 5 is sung)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN LSB #794 "The Lord My God Be Praised"