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**The Holy Trinity**

“I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same the Three in One and One in Three.” *LSB* 604:1

**AS WE GATHER**

Preachers, poets, and others have shared many images to help the faithful understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. One of the most lasting images has been that of the shamrock—a simple and sturdy plant with three leaves joined together on one stem. Saint Patrick, the famed Christian missionary to Ireland in the fifth century, used the shamrock to illustrate the concept of “Three in One” that is central to understanding the Trinity. The shamrock plant is closely associated both with the saint and with the Emerald Isle. Each shamrock is at its loveliest when it is in bloom—just as those who confess the Holy Trinity are at their most beautiful and most gracious when they show forth the presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 6:3b, 1 John 4:13–14, Psalm 41:13*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

**People: the whole earth is full of His glory!**

Pastor: By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

**People: And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**People: from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Beloved of God, let us confess together that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that daily we have sinned against our gracious God and deserve His punishment now and eternally. We have not fully nurtured and cared for the handiwork of God, the Creator. We have not given Jesus, our Savior, the full lordship of our lives. We have not fully followed the promptings and leading of the Holy Spirit. We have not always honored the strong name of the Trinity in thought, word, and deed.

**People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins and seek Your mercy. Be gracious to us and for the sake of Jesus, our Redeemer, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may find the joy of absolution and, with hearts renewed by the Spirit, serve You in time and in eternity.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OPENING HYMN** *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* (*LSB* 507)

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, blessed Trinity!

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.

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.

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, blessed Trinity!

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Genesis 1:1—2:4a *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**SECOND READING** Acts 2:14a, 22-36 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 28:16-20 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**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 Infinites, 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 Almighties, 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.**

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.

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

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

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

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

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

**People: 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.**

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Praise and Thanksgiving”* (*LSB* 789)

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

for all things living, created good:

harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard.

hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve You

that with our neighbor we may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, we would work with You,

harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for Your children,

by Your wise guiding teach us to share

one with another, so that, rejoicing

with us, all others may know Your care.

**SERMON “*Beyond, Before, With, and In Us”***

**ATHANASIAN CREED** **(Part 2)**

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.**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”* (*LSB* 717)

Eternal Father, strong to save

whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep

its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to Thee

for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,

o’er which our traffic runs amain

by mountain pass or valley low;

wherever, Lord, Thy people go,

protect them by Thy guarding hand

from ev’ry peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent

to spread abroad the firmament;

O Wind of heaven, by Thy might

save all who dare the eagle’s flight,

and keep them by Thy watchful care

from ev’ry peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow’r,

our people shield in danger’s hour;

from rock and tempest, fire and foe,

protect them where-soe’er they go;

thus evermore shall rise to Thee

glad praise from air and land and sea.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for giving us a foretaste of the feast to come at the Table of the Lord. Strengthen us through the blessed gift we have received and grant that we faithfully respond to the workings of the Spirit in us. Grant that we graciously carry out the Great Commission given us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we await that time when we come at last to that heavenly banquet in Your kingdom where joy knows no ending. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* (*LSB* 805)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:**

**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN** *“How Great Thou Art”* (*LSB* 801)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

consider all the works Thy hand hath made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

*(Refrain)* then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,

how great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saior God, to Thee,

how great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,

I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *(Refrain)*

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,

sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—

that on the cross my burden gladly bearing

He bled and died to take away my sin; *(Refrain)*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

and there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” *(Refrain)*

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**