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**The Holy Trinity**

“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

**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.

**PSALM** 8

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**INTRODUCTION**

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 (pg. 319, vs. 1-18, *whole verse by whole verse*)**

**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.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

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

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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ATHANASIAN CREED (pg. 319-320, vs. 19-26, *whole verse by whole verse*)**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 8:48-59 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**INTRODUCTION**

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 (pg. 320, vs. 27-40, *whole verse by whole verse*)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”* (*LSB* 822)

**SERMON “*Majestic Mercy”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

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

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**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.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *“O God of God, O Light of Light”* (*LSB* 810)

**RESPONSE** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* (*LSB* 805)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed our spirits, nourished our faith, and forgiven our sins. Bless our days ahead and keep us sanctified in the truth, that we remain together as one Body in the confession and proclamation of You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

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

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**