

AUGUSTANA

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

TRINITY SUNDAY June 7, 2020

WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Thank you to today's worship assistant Dale Johnson

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.

GATHERING HYMN # 413 Holy, Holy, Holy (verses 1, 3 & 4)

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! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness 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!

CHILDREN'S TIME

In our video chat this week I shared a story with the kids: The Elephant – described by three blind people. One grasps the trunk ... or is grasped by the trunk And says an elephant is like a snake. The second grabs the elephant's leg which is like a sturdy tree trunk and concludes that an elephant is like a tree. The third who bumped into the side of the elephant and thought they had run into a wall decided that the elephant was like a house. All three were kind of right and kind of wrong.

Then I asked them, "What do you think God is like?" And there were lots of ideas. Then we went looking for things that might describe God in the crazy apps that go along with the video chat. Their descriptions of God ... let's find some of the crazy pictures that come up on video chats.

We found some things that might describe God the creator:

- Trees,
- a picture of space – cosmos

- a tropical beach

And some that might describe God the Holy Spirit.

- Balloons in the air
- Clouds moving in the wind

We had a bit more trouble with images of Jesus

- Bunch of flying cats was the best we could do looking for a flock of sheep but there were no sheep or a shepherd, but there was a cowboy and that's is a little bit like a shepherd.

Strange as it may seem, I think it was a good exercise for us. Because we look for God in the world around us and we ask ourselves where is God at work in the world already.

It is good to be open to different ways to understand how God is present and active in our lives and in our world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Holy One, whose fingers sculpted sun and moon; Holy Spirit, who brooded over the waters of creation; Holy Word, who lives in us; may we share in your grace, love and communion, so that we may live in your likeness; for you live in unity and diversity, one God, now and for ever. Amen

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe
 Just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.
 Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? /refrain

For you alone are the Holy One.
 All nations will draw near and worship before you,
 For your just and holy works have been revealed. /refrain

SCRIPTURE READING a reading from Genesis chapters 1 & 2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of

every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, Word of life **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
Word of life Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.
Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20 **Glory to you, O Lord**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

Trinity Sunday is always a very special day for me. I was confirmed on Trinity Sunday in 1976. Unlike many confirmation students I had to plead with my mother for 2½ years to be allowed to take confirmation instruction and the day I and my fellow students were confirmed was a highlight for me ... it was a bigger day than high school graduation the next year.

Trinity Sunday is often a traditional day for confirmation. And it is a fitting day since it is a day devoted to trying to understand the nature of God and how God is three in one and one in three all at the same time. It is a way of understanding God that goes beyond our human ken.

Over the years there have been many ways used to express the inexpressible:

- Egg – yolk, white and shell
- Apple – seed, white, and skin
- Water – ice, steam, and liquid
- The three leaves of the Shamrock

All of these images gives us a hint, but does not fully capture what Trinity means. What we do know is that the Trinity reveals that it is in God's nature to be in relationship with Godself.

It also reveals to ourselves that we don't know it all. And if we do think we know it all we are deluding ourselves. That is a good message for a confirmation Sunday just in case those who are confirmed might think of it as a kind of graduation. It certainly is a celebration, but there is lots of room for continuing education. I believe Pastor Cherland, those many years ago, was trying to pass that message on to us. And he underscored that message with the Bible verse he picked out for me from Philippians 4: "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached my goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." In other words: you are confirmed, but that doesn't mean you are done! There is lot's of continuing education to come!

But even with continuing education there will always be more to God ... for God is beyond what we can imagine God is always more
In an confusing and complicated world I find that comforting. If God had clearly defined and limited boundaries >> this is what God is and there ain't no more<< then there isn't room for new and different experience. And we are living in a new and different reality. None of us have ever lived through a pandemic before. Jesus' promise "I am with you always" reassures me that God is not limited by my lack of experience.

In circumstances that keep changing:

- Online worship "I am with you always"
- when we do return to new normal in the church building "I am with you always"
- As we try to discover what it means to be a Christian in these times I cling to Jesus' words "I am with you always"

Because God is beyond what I can possible imagine Jesus' words "I am with you always" are powerful. They are words to hold onto now and always.

SONG # 412 Come Join the Dance of Trinity

Come join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun
 The interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
 The Universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
 But as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their dance.

Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem;
 Then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem,
 The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;
 When fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.

Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame
 Set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior's name.
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
 Go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,
 We sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
 Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
 To shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Normally on Trinity Sunday we would express our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed, but without a hymnbook in front of us I think it is better to speak of our faith in the words of the more familiar creed ... the one we all had to memorize during our confirmation instruction. Please join me in expressing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

- 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.

- Prayer of Confession

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S RESPONSE TO US

Hear then God's response: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each short prayer will end with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer.**"

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation. Let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, priests, deacons and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation.. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects, and mammals and call them good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice. Following the brutal death of George Floyd we pray for justice. And in that

justice we cry out for peaceful change. Support George's family and loved ones during this time of turmoil. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need especially Clayton, Jennie, Logan, William, Marcus, Brody, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Deanna, Carol, Wilma, Mary, Marlene, those who feel a sense of isolation, and all who we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(pause so people listening from home can add names)* May God's loving care bring healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of life. We give you thanks for the safe arrival of David Gabriel Lindenbach. Bless Parents and brothers as they welcome a new family member. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of hope, we thank you for the many who serve to bring care and healing during this time of pandemic. Give us patience as we seek to learn what our "new normal" is. Give us compassion and wisdom so that we might treat each other with respect. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of companionship, as we keep our distance from one another and cover our faces with masks teach us how to love one another in word and deed. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We pray for Kevin Ogilvie and Jann Boyd on the death of Kevin's son Hery, Georgina Krenn's family, and the family of Caron Parke. Hold them in your care. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Marilyn: Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal life. AMEN.

SENDING SONG # 525 You are Holy (sing two times)

You are holy, you are whole.
 You are always ever more than we ever understand.
 You are always at hand.
 Blessed are you coming near.
 Blessed are you coming here
 To your church in wine and bread,
 raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy
 You are wholeness,
 You are present.
 Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
 Sing hosanna! In the highest@
 Sing hosanna!
 Sing hosanna to our God!

DISMISSAL

You are the church. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Christ is with you!
Thanks be to God.