

## **Augustana**

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

TRINITY SUNDAY May 30, 2021

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all abilities, ages, colours, ethnicities, or sexual orientation & gender identities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

### OPENING LITANY

Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God.

Eternal God,

Maker of the skies above,

lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,

unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts

**You are present among us**

O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul without all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,

**You are present among us**

As we sing and pray and listen

**Be present among us**

**HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty #413, verses 1 – 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! 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 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

A "know it all" – annoying!

... who knows it all?

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Teachers – they at least know how to find out what they don't know
- Pastors

- You?
- We can safely say: no one knows it all.... but is it necessary to know it all?
- Me – I don't exactly understand how a car runs, but I still get around in one.

It's Ok to not know it all ... it's OK to have questions .... Even about God. We don't know it all BUT one thing I do absolutely know.... God knows and loves us.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, your name is veiled in mystery, yet you have made us and call us by name; draw us more deeply into your divine life, so that we may show forth in our lives your justice, kindness and humility; for you alone are holy, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

##### **First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)**

<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!”

Reader: Word of God, Word of life **ALL: Thanks be to God**

### **Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17 (NRSV)**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — <sup>13</sup> for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life **ALL: Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

### GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to St. John chapter 3:1-17 **Glory to you, O Lord**

<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<sup>[d]</sup> 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**

## MEDITATION

This is the Sunday for questioners and doubters. It is a day for seekers. It is also called Trinity Sunday where we celebrate how God is one God and yet at the very same time three: Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit. There are many, many ways that try to explain the 3 in 1 and 1 in 3, but each attempt falls short.

It is all about trying to find a way to explain God and it reveals just how much we don't know. Because God is beyond human understanding. God is light, wind, fire, spirit, Jesus,

Spirit, wisdom, love ..... all that and much more. It is a Holy Mystery.

There have been disagreements and fights over defining God .... Many Creeds or statements of faith have been written over the years trying to articulate what we know about God .... And they all fall short.

My confirmation was on a Trinity Sunday long ago. I believe it was on that day as the Pastor's way of saying "so you think you know something ....." This sentiment was highlighted in the the Bible passage Pastor Cherland picked for me: Philippians 3:12 "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;<sup>\*</sup> but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."

I took this to mean ... don't think that you know it all just yet. There is always more to learn.

- To question what you know ... do you know enough? ... No, never, but the questions and wonderings are good. Not an end in themselves, but part of the journey.

Seekers and wonderers and questioners are welcome

- Nicodemus – the person who came to Jesus at night with questions. He was welcomed and questions opened the way for Jesus to tell us "For God so loved the world ...."
- Another question for today: can you do what is asked of you?

- Like Isaiah – who questioned how God could possibly be calling him

The wind blows where it will

... in your eyes, up your nose, through your ears and it wakes you up with questions in the night

Does God's openness and welcome mean that God is not discriminating? No, it means that God draws a wide circle and gathers in people whether they think they are worth it or not. Because in God's eyes the seekers and questioners are welcome. As are ....

... the lost and lonely, the barren and broken

... the wonderers and the doubters

God is not interested in condemning. God is interested in loving and calling God's people to live that love out.

Both Nicodemus and Isaiah had questions – neither of them had all the answers – but they both answered in their own way “here I am” ... and that was a new beginning.

Prayer: though we know so little, may we always know this one true thing: God loved the world so much.

**HYMN Come, Join the Dance of Trinity #412, v. 1-4**

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 words 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.

I mentioned earlier that there are many creeds and statements  
of faith. They are one way to help us express what we think we  
know about God. Even a long ago people wanted to try to  
know it all. This Creed had it's beginning round about 200 AD.

**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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. 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."

We come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Be with the people and clergy of the Diocese of Toronto and their Bishop Andrew Asbil, Suffragan Bishops Kevin Robertson & Riscylla Shaw, and with the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. Give wisdom to Premier Scott Moe, May Charlie Clark, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Shahab. We pray especially for nations experiencing war or turmoil *including Israel and Palestine, Myanmar, and Belarus*. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day *especially* Katherine, Paul and family, Angie, Edith, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol,

Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, Karen, for those whose lives and livelihoods are at risk due to fire, drought, and flood; and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts .....*(a pause to offer time to name others)*. Encircle them in your care. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for those who depend on the care and caution of others especially those who are incarcerated and refugees around the world. Protect and support the Alhamad-Wahid and Iqbal families. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for this worshipping community, Augustana Lutheran Church, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for all who have questions or doubts. We do not ask for answers or assurances, we ask for faith to trust and believe. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war and conflict. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**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 & DISMISSAL

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.

You are the church. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Christ is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**Thank you's**

Worship Assistant: Bonnie Moser

Musicians: Mik Bickis, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad

**Permissions:**

OneLicense: hymns and Gospel Acclamation

Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress); Iona Abbey Worship  
Book (Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow: 2017) adapted

