

Sunday, June 11, 2017
Holy Trinity

INTRODUCTION

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

PRELUDE

"How Great Thou Art"

Dan Miller

***GATHERING SONG**

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

ELW 408

**Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord;
our prayer attend.
Come and thy people bless,
and give thy word success,
and let thy righteousness
on us descend.**

**Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in ev'ry heart,
never from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity**

love and adore.

***GREETING**

℟ *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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** vv. 1-3

ELW 413

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"

**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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

℟ *God of heaven and earth,*

☩ before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Allen Pote

Sharon Gray, soprano

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

This first creation story reached its current form during the crisis of the Babylonian exile of the people of Israel. God, not their captors' god Marduk, was responsible for their existence. God created women and men as rulers over creation, to preserve and protect it. God also rested on the seventh day, hallowing that day forever as the Sabbath.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So 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. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then 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.”

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God 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.” ²⁹God 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And 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. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested

from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reflection

This is the first story in the Bible. What was there before “the beginning”? (verse 1) What do you think is meant by “in the beginning”? Remember that wind, breath, and spirit are the same word in both Hebrew and Greek. (Genesis was written down in Hebrew.) Who was there before “the beginning”? (verses 1-2) What did God create first? (verse 3) How did God create? (verse 3—also verses 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26) As you read this text carefully, what do you notice about the order of creation? What is God’s evaluation of the creation? Does “good” mean “perfect”? What do you think “good” means in this text? In verses 6-8, God creates a “dome” that God called Sky. The picture here is of a solid, curved sky held up by pillars over a flat earth, providing space between waters above (where rain and snow come from) and waters under (the sea, rivers, lakes, and so forth). This is not how we understand the sky and the waters (which were created after the sky in this story—see verses 9-10). Does this mean this story is not “true”? Why or why not? In the organization of light, God creates “two great lights” that rule the day and the night. What do you think this means in the context of this text? What is the blessing that God gives the birds, the fish, and the swarms of creatures that live in the sea? (verses 20-22) How are the animals created? (Read carefully verse 24) How were human beings created? (verses 26-27) What blessing does God give to humankind? (verses 28-29) What do you think it means for humans to have “dominion” over every living thing? How are humans to exercise dominion? What happens on the seventh day? (2:1-3) If you have read this text before, what do you learn from reading it/hearing it again? If you have not read or heard this text before, what have you learned about God and creation from reading it?

PSALM 8

¹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,
human beings that you should | care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

⁷all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

⁹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

Reflection

This psalm is another view of creation (although influenced by the story in Genesis 1). What does the psalmist see when looking at the creation? (verses 1-3) What question does the whole creation prompt in the psalmist? (verse 4) What does the psalmist learn about human beings from reflecting on the creation? (verses 5-8) What do you think it means when the psalmist describes what God has done by “put[ting] all things under their feet”? Who is deserving of praise for the creation? (verse 9) What do you learn about creation and God from reading and praying this psalm?

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ’s grace, God’s love, the Spirit’s partnership.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Reflection

Because of God’s great love for us, how does Paul encourage us (and the Corinthians) to live? (verses 11-12) Where have you heard verse 13 before? How does this verse sum up Paul’s understanding of the nature of God and the nature of Christian community? Does it describe our understanding of God and of our assembly?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.**

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflection

Where does this text take place? (verse 16) Remember why there are only eleven disciples? (See Matthew 27:3-10) What is the response of the disciples to seeing Jesus? (verse 17) Why do you think some doubted? Does this surprise you? What do you think they doubted? Do you ever doubt? If your answer is yes, I think this puts you in good company! What do you think? What does Jesus say about his authority? (verse 18) Do you think this means he did not have authority before this moment? (See Matthew 7:28 and the chapters following, especially 8:1-4, 8-9, 14-16, 27, 29-32, 9:2-8, 9-13, 18-26; 21:23-32) What does it mean for us that Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth?

What are we called to do as Jesus' disciples? (verses 19-20) Do we do anything on our own authority?
Where is Jesus now? (verse 20)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"The Authority of God"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When Long before Time"

ELW 861

The Singer and the Song

**When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream--**

**The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**

**The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures reechoed it long.**

**Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.**

**The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.**

**To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death.**

***ATHANASIAN CREED**

**Whoever wants to be saved
should above all cling to the catholic faith.
Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable
will doubtless perish eternally.
Now this is the catholic faith:**

**We worship one God in trinity
and the Trinity in unity,
neither confusing the persons
nor dividing the divine being.
For the Father is one person,
the Son is another,
and the Spirit is still another.
But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
is one, equal in glory,
coeternal in majesty.
What the Father is,
the Son is,
and so is the Holy Spirit.**

**Uncreated is the Father;
uncreated is the Son;
uncreated is the Spirit.
The Father is infinite;
the Son is infinite;
the Holy Spirit is infinite.
Eternal is the Father;
eternal is the Son;
eternal is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three eternal beings,
but one who is eternal;
as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings,
but one who is uncreated and unlimited.
Almighty is the Father;
almighty is the Son;
almighty is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three almighty beings,
but one who is almighty.**

**Thus the Father is God;
the Son is God;
the Holy Spirit is God:
And yet there are not three gods,
but one God.**

**Thus the Father is Lord;
the Son is Lord;
the Holy Spirit is Lord:
And yet there are not three lords,
but one Lord.**

**As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge
each distinct person as God and Lord,
so catholic religion forbids us
to say that there are three gods or lords.**

The Father was neither made

**nor created nor begotten;
the Son was neither made nor created,
but was alone begotten of the Father;
the Spirit was neither made nor created,
but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.
Thus there is one Father, not three fathers;
one Son, not three sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.**

**And in this Trinity, no one is before or after,
greater or less than the other;
but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal;
and so we must worship the Trinity in unity
and the one God in three persons.**

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

**It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe
that our Lord Jesus became flesh.**

**For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and man.**

**He is God, begotten before all worlds
from the being of the Father,
and he is man, born in the world
from the being of his mother—
existing fully as God,
and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity,
subordinate to the Father in humanity.**

**Although he is God and man,
he is not divided,
but is one Christ.**

**He is united because God
has taken humanity into himself;
he does not transform deity into humanity.
He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.**

**For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.**

**He suffered death for our salvation.
He descended into hell
and rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**At his coming all people shall rise bodily
to give an account of their own deeds.
Those who have done good will enter eternal life,
those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.**

**This is the catholic faith.
One cannot be saved
without believing this firmly and faithfully.**

***PRAYER SONG** *"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" vv. 4*

**Have thine own way, Lord,
have thine own way.
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

A brief silence.

Holy Mystery, you call us to be your church. Keep calling your people to faithful reform. Give us vision and courage to share your new life with all the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joyful Creator, you made a wondrous universe and call us to be partners in its care. Inspire delight in the furry, scaly, watery, breezy, sandy stuff you love. Inspire us to bring about creation's healing. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you love our enemies and bless all people. Make our hearts yearn to be joyful and share your generosity. Help leaders and citizens use political power in service of your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate One, you bring about the fullness of life. When sorrow wounds faith, send wise ones to comfort and encourage those who suffer. Heal your people in body, mind, and spirit *especially Pete, Roberta, Bill, Doris, Dorothy, Terry, Gerald, Peggy Ann, Chester, Samantha, Stephanie, Terry, Dorothy, Linda, Scott, and Alva.*

We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, you call us together to bless your world. Guide all who are preparing for baptism into the joy of new life in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face

the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you bring life out of death at every turn. We give you thanks for all the saints and for dear ones whom we mourn. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Only by Grace"

**Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,
and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.**

**Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.**

**Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,
and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

G **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** vv. 4

ELW 413

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"

**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!**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***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!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

☩ *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together.*

***BLESSING**

☩ *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*
☩ Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☩ *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*
☩ you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

☩ *May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*
☩ Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"How Majestic is Your Name"

**Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth**

**Oh Lord we praise Your name
Oh Lord we magnify Your name
Prince of Peace Mighty God
Oh Lord God Almighty**

***DISMISSAL**

P *Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.*

G **Thanks be to God!**