

# HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

*A Service of the Word*

*June 7, 2020*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

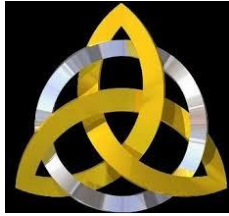
**85 East Brandt Boulevard**

**Landisville, PA 17538**

*United in Christ,  
we are called to love and serve.*

# HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

## *Service of the Word*



ELW refers to the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book*  
*P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation & Pastor*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Holy, Holy*

J. Owens

#### † THE GATHERING †

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,  
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

*Silence is kept for reflect.*

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of the † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

ELW 413

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!

## **THE GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. The words God speaks are the life and sustenance of all that exists. The life Jesus gives is the re-creation and renews the birth of all that is broken and worn. The Spirit's stirring in our souls is the inspiration for creativity, compassion, joy, and community.

Life giving, life-restoring, life-fulfilling God; may our whole lives be worship. In all things, may we seek to connect with and to reflect your love and your hope.

Keep us steadfast in faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† **THE WORD** †

*God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.*

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**A:** A reading from Genesis.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3b-13

A: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

[Paul writes:] Finally, 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. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:16-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **The Commissioning of the Disciples**

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.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON FOR HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Pastor Barbara Caruana

*In the name of the Father, and of the  
† Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

P: Well, today is another festival of the church. This one is even more forgotten than last Sunday’s festival, the Day of Pentecost.

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday, and you, like many others, might say, “So what? What is it?” and to that I would have to say Trinity Sunday is the day I’m expected to preach about the loving attributes and divine composition of the Holy Trinity. While that might sound easy, there’s one huge problem ... no one really knows much about the Holy Trinity.

But what I can say about the Holy Trinity is that it's not an historical event like Christmas or Easter. In fact, there's no mention of the Trinity, as such, in the Bible.

Now, just because it doesn't appear in the Bible, don't think this omission means the Trinity doesn't exist. Just perish that thought. When it comes to the Trinity, God has elected to keep some things to himself. After all, God doesn't have to share everything with us.

What I can also say is that the Trinity is a doctrine of the church, an article of faith, that we believe in whole heartedly, and that's evidenced by our constant use of the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," Amen.

Maybe the following conversation between a father and his son will shed some light on the topic of the Trinity ... maybe it won't. But, let's give it a try. This conversation begins with the child asking a question and the father responding. That pattern is used throughout the conversation. So here goes:

C: Dad, I've got a question.

P: What is it, Son?

C: Well, today in Sunday School, we talked about God.

P: God, huh. Maybe you should talk to your mother.

C: Come on, Dad.

P: Okay, Son, what's your question?

C: Well, our teacher was trying to explain the Trinity ...you know, God in three persons?

P: Son, I REALLY think this is a Mom question, don't you?

C: Dad ...

P: All right, what's your question?

C: Well, I guess it's just confusing. I mean, I've never met a Trinity before. Have you?

P: What do you mean, Son.

C: Everyone I know is just one person, not three.

P: I see. And this worries you?

C: Well, it's just confusing, Dad. I mean, who is this Trinity God supposed to be?

P: That's a good question, Son.

C: (PAUSE) Well ...

P: Well, what?

C: Don't you have some wonderful parental insight to help me out, here?

P: Ah, right. Well, let me think. God is like H<sup>2</sup>O, you know -- ice, liquid, and steam all H<sup>2</sup>O, but different forms.

C: So ... God is like water?

P: Well, not exactly. Oh, okay. Let's try this: Take you our Mother, for instance. She's one person, but she's also a mother, a wife and a daughter.

C: So, you're saying Mom is God?

P: Let's not go there, Son. Let me think some more.

C: What about the beauty of a flower, or the smile or a baby?

P: What? How is that like the Trinity?

C: I don't know, but when I see something like that, I know that God must have had a hand in it.

P: I would agree with you there, Son.

C: But, which one?

P: Which one what?

C: Which God is involved in something like that?

P: I am not following you here, Son.

C: Well, if God is three persons, which person makes the flowers bloom? Which person breathes new life into a baby?

P: Now wait, remember we have a rule in this house. Mom answers all questions about babies, okay?

C: Not just babies, Dad, everything. Which person paints the colors of the sunset? Which person listens to me when no one else will? Which one?

P: Wow. These are good questions, Son.



C: Which one is it? And how do we know? And who decides? And do they ever argue with each other? Do they live in the same place? Can you see them all, or just some of them? How can you tell them apart? Are they identical? Is it just three, or could it be four, or five, or more?

P: (LONG PAUSE - staring at Child) Son, the Trinity is like an apple, it has a core, the meat of the apple, and the skin ...

C: Dad?

P: Or maybe, like a three-leafed clover?

C: You don't know do you, Dad?

P: Or a triangle?

C: I'll go ask Mom, or whoever she is!

P: Or three interlocking circles ...?



There's no doubt about it. The concept of the Trinity can be confusing ... it's tough to wrap our heads around it. And the truth of the matter is, no matter how much we think about it, no matter how much we talk or argue about it, we will never really comprehend its depth and complexity.

But what we do know and what we can comprehend is that we have a God in Jesus who came to earth and taught us to love our neighbor as our selves. He taught us not to judge others but to treat them with kindness and humility.

When we pray to God through the Spirit, we are the living experience of the Holy Trinity. The Spirit's breathing, the Son's intercession, and the Father's will ... these three become one in us.

As the child in the opening conversation says:

C: Which one is it? And how do we know? And who decides? And do they ever argue with each other? Which one is it? Is it one and three at the same time?

Keep in mind, the Trinity isn't a vague doctrinal experience, it's personal. The Trinity is God relating to each of us on a personal level. The Trinity isn't some puzzle to be solved, but a relationship of love to be lived. And how do we know? Because we each have a relationship with the God who loves us unconditionally,

the son who intercedes on our behalf, and the guiding breath of the Holy Spirit within us.

And while we might not know just what the triune relationship means to God, we do know what it means to us: Our God loves us, liberates us, and continues to bless us.

I might not know exactly how God does it, but let me tell you, I'm very thankful he does.

And so, "In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit", I say, "Thanks be to God!" Amen.

**HYMN**

*How Majestic is Your Name*

CCLI 26007

O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is your name  
In all the earth!

O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is your name  
In all the Earth!

O Lord, we praise your name.  
O Lord, we magnify your name,  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God,  
O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is your name  
In all the earth!

O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is your name  
In all the earth!

O Lord, we praise your name.  
O Lord, we magnify your name,  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God,  
O Lord God Almighty.

## **NICENE CREED**

- P:** We profess our faith in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C:** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

- A:** As we enter into prayer on this festival day within the church year, let us give thanks to God ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We give you thanks, O God, for the mystery and majesty of the Triune God ... the God who is above us, beside us, and below us ... the God who is our loving Father and our companion Spirit ... the one to whom we turn for wisdom, guidance, and inspiration. Baptized into the name of the Triune God, we give thanks for the privilege of entering into God's community of love, mission, and grace.

We pray for the leaders of all nations and people everywhere that they may be safe during these pandemic times, be guided by truth and justice, and be ever aware of those who are struggling to survive ... both economically and physically.

We pray that the ministry of this congregation may reach out in love to those who are broken. We especially pray for those whose lives have changed overnight due to deaths in families, illness, loss of jobs, and the “new normal” of daily living that affects each of us in different ways.

We pray for Zion’s youth who have recently graduated from Hempfield High School: Evan Benedict, Brad Green, Clair Flood, Riley Klepper, and Jaden Myers. May the challenges before them inspire them to reach out in faith and love.

We pray that all who suffer in any way may experience the love of the Triune God ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We remember all on Zion’s prayer list: those in need of healing; those in need of comfort, peace, strength, and safety; and those in need of protection. May the weariness and sadness they may feel, for whatever reason, be replaced with joy and hope.

We remember the faithful departed, especially Kim Propst, whose lives were sealed with the sign of the Holy Trinity ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Justified by faith, may we all be joined together at life’s end to share in the glory of God.

Triune God, we ask that you accept these prayers we offer to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to pray together saying ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### † THE SENDING †

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **A SPECIAL STORY FOR HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

### **The Child by the Seaside**

While Augustine, a great theologian, philosopher, and Bishop, was working on his book entitled *On the Trinity*, he was walking by the seaside one day, meditating on the difficult problem of how God could be three persons at once. He came upon a little child. The child had dug a little hole in the sand, and with a seashell was scooping water from the sea into the small hole. Augustine watched him for a while and finally asked the child what he was doing. The child answered that he would scoop all the water from the sea and pour it into the little hole in the sand. “What?” Augustine said. “That is impossible. Obviously,

the sea is too large and the hole too small.” “Indeed,” said the child. But it is not more impossible than what you are trying to do – comprehend the immensity of the mystery of the Holy Trinity with your small mind!” Augustine stopped at his words and glanced away from the boy, surprised by the boy’s response. When he turned back to the boy, he discovered he had vanished!



So, who was the child at the seaside who seemed to understand Augustine’s limited understanding of the Holy Trinity and seemed to baffle Augustine? Augustine turned away from the child in amazement. Why was Augustine amazed ... by the disappearance of the child or what the child may have represented? What do you think?

### BLESSING

P: The goodness of the Creator,  
the grace of the Savior,  
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit  
be upon you and within you;  
and the blessing of Almighty God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit  
be with you now and forever.  
Amen.

### HYMN

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

ELW 414

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav’n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn, angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim in unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav’ns with sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord!”

Lo, the apostolic train, join your sacred name to hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow;  
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
Though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you;  
And, adoring, bend the knee, while we own the mystery.

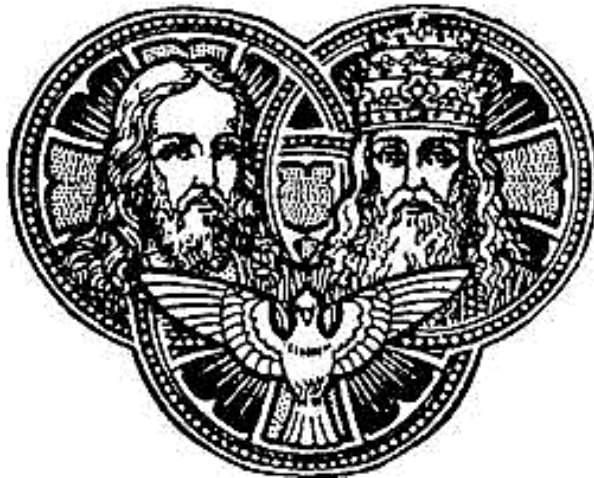
**DISMISSAL**

P: Surrounded by the Triune God, go forth to love and serve.

**POSTLUDE**

*We Are Called*

D. Haas



*The Holy Trinity  
Father, Son & Holy Spirit*

## **PRAYER LIST**

### ***FOR HEALING***

Kevin Reinhart

Fred Hamor

Joe Adams

Judie Ingersoll

Lucy Davis

Bill Grove

Kay Crawford

Holly Hoover

Betty Stoner

Don Heartter

Janet & Harry Musselman

Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)

Wilson Pipkin (Father of Wilson Pipkin)

Jessica Graham (Granddaughter of Janet & Harry Musselman)

Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)

Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)

### ***FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY***

Richard and Marilyn Heim

Arlene Miller

Deb McCartney

Marlin Zimmerman

Charlotte & George Potts

Bette Geibel

Jennifer Thompson

Ted Symonds & Family

The family and friends of Kim Propst who died suddenly on Tuesday, June 2.

The family and friends of Mary Grzybowski who died on Thursday, May 21.

Anita Kolibas Engroff & Jeff on the death of her father, Robert Wee, on June 3.

Residents and Staff of the Phoenixville Care & Rehabilitation Center

Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)

Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)

Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)

***FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS***

Christopher Wright

Chris Andrew

Thom Whitesel

Ryan Stitzel

Doug Kautter

Justin Gorlaski

Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)

David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and wife of Liz)



*Never Underestimate the power of prayer.*