

Sunday, May 30, 2021

The Holy Trinity, Year B

Introduction

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Order of Worship

It's Holy Trinity Sunday, which means we celebrate communion. It's also Memorial Day Weekend, so special prayers for those who have sacrificed their lives in serving our nation, as well as for those still serving. Pastor Peterman preaches and presides.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.
Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.**

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's vision and call

Romans 8:12-17

Living by the Spirit

John 3:1-17

Entering the reign of God through water and the Spirit

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In 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. ²Seraphs 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. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And 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!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The 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." ⁸Then 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!"

A The Word of the Lord.

C THANKS BE TO GOD.

Reading: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C THANKS BE TO GOD.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Jesus’ miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The 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.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“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. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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.”

Prayers of Intercession

When I say, “Lord, in your mercy,” you respond, “**hear our prayer.**”

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

We begin our prayers this morning with a Memorial Day remembrance: *with these prayers we remember and honor those who have served our nation through military service, especially those who have died.*

O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,
let each of us name and call on God
whose power over us
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing...

You who created us,
who sustain us,
who call us to live in peace,
hear our prayer this day.

Hear our prayer for all who have died
through serving our nation
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone...

Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others
ahead of their own
and give us hearts as generous as theirs...

Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives
in the service of others,
and accept the gift of their sacrifice...
We name before you those known to us:

Hold a longish pause...

We name before you, as well, those who have served
and have since died:

Hold another longish pause...

Help us to shape and make a world
where we will lay down the arms of war
and turn our swords into ploughshares
for a harvest of justice and peace...

Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...

Hear our prayer this day
and in your mercy answer us
in the name of all that is holy.
Amen.

pause

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we
may be reborn once again through the blowing wind of your Spirit.

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 healing for all who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or
violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any form of mental health struggle.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your people gathered here at Grace, 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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, the ravages of illness,
including Covid:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

Peace

As Usual

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,

and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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Memorial Day Prayers

Prayer by Chaplain Austin Fleming
Memorial Day Prayer: Remembrance and Thanksgiving
Huffington Post, 7/29/11

Reading and first prayer taken from ELW's Prayer Book for the Armed Services "Remembering Those
Who Have Died"
Prepared by Interim Pastor Janet S Peterman