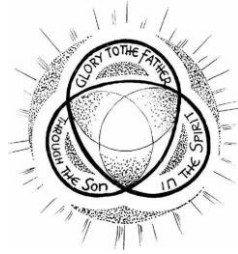


Our Sunday Service Together

Trinity Sunday June 4th 2023



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! It is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you have revealed the glory of your eternal fellowship of love with your Son and with the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored. Alleluia!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody Psalm 8 *We say the psalm aloud*

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!
Your majesty above the heavens is praised out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
You have founded a stronghold against your foes, that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them; mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
You have made them little lower than the angels and crown them with glory and honour.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands and put all things under their feet,
All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

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. 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.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped 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.'

A Reflection for the day

Trinity Sunday is unusual amongst the festivals of the Church in that it celebrates a teaching of the Church. All the other festivals celebrate an event in the life of Christ; His birth at Christmas; His resurrection at Easter; and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But to-day we are reminded of one of the central teachings of the Church. However, I always feel that the Doctrine of the Trinity is made unnecessarily complicated simply by the way it is presented which makes it look like a riddle! We seem to be asked to believe that God is both one and three at the same time.

Since the very earliest times people have been curious about the origin and meaning of life and the Old Testament is the record of the evolution of that idea through the story of the Jewish nation. There are several strands to this idea. One strand is the story exploring the hand of God in creation. Another strand is about the number and function of the gods and their relationship with each other. The general assumption was that there are many gods with various functions, but the Jews felt their God was superior to the others and he particularly favoured them. Another strand was the prophets who realised that there was an ethical dimension to faith and believed that if they behaved well God would bless them but if they displeased him he would punish them. This was expressed forcefully by John the Baptist with his urgent call for repentance. That was the situation when Jesus began his ministry.

As the early church developed they realised that God had been active in three very distinct ways; in creating and recreating the world; in the person of Jesus; and through the Spirit active in the world. And this is expressed in the simple but rather confusing doctrine of the Trinity – one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, theologians tried to define the relationship between the 'persons' of the trinity too precisely and this led to an acrimonious dispute and the split between the Roman Catholic Church based in Rome and the Eastern Orthodox Church based in Constantinople which is only now able to be healed after nearly a thousand years. Perhaps this is why it is often said that Jesus taught a simple faith which theologians have been complicating ever since!

Most of us are more confused than enlightened by the wrangling of academic theologians and I am certain God is more mysterious than I can ever hope to understand. By definition God is more than our finite minds can possibly comprehend and to try to do so is doomed to failure. It is sufficient for me to see a wonderful world in which we live, to learn of the love of God through the life and teachings of Jesus, and to experience that love as expressed in lives of those who have followed him for the last two thousand years.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

As we mark Trinity Sunday let us pray that our faith will grow and develop. And let us particularly pray for all those theologians and preachers who seek to make the Gospel relevant to our generation. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for Bishops Michael and Ruth and all those who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our King, Prime Minister, members of parliament and local councillors that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through this difficult time. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for all trade unions and their leaders that they may work for the good of everyone. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those who have suffered as the result of recent local flooding that they may get all the help and support they need. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering, dying and those who mourn and we give thanks and pray for those who care for them. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: 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 us 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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me.
Amen.