

**+ ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE | JUNE 7, 2020 | 10:00 AM +**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**Beautiful Savior**

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONGREGATION: Amen.**

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**CONGREGATION: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**CONGREGATION: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONGREGATION: Amen.**

## **INTROIT: *Psalm 16:8–11***

PASTOR: Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us. I have set the LORD always before me because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**CONGREGATION: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PASTOR: Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

**CONGREGATION: And also with you.**

PASTOR: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. **CONGREGATION: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 1:1—2:4a***

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And 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 an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens 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. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. 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 expanse of the heavens 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 expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on 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 swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And

God saw that it was good. And 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 according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on 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 heavens 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. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, 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 the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

**CONGREGATION: Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: *Acts 2:14a, 22–36***

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them... “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, “‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’” “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’” Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

**CONGREGATION: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 28:16–20***

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**CONGREGATION: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age."

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**CONGREGATION: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**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! Man hath fallen from Thee.**

**Through the blood of Christ Thy Son, this soul can be redeemed.**

**Justice, truth, and mercy join with love to crown Thee.**

**Savior of sinners, soon returning King!**

**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!**

## SERMON

Last week, on Pentecost, we heard the first portion of Peter's Pentecost sermon that he preached that day to the crowds in Jerusalem. We heard, through him, how God was establishing a new covenant people, a new Israel. We hear how God was calling and choosing people from all places and nations and ethnicities to be His treasured and chosen people.

Today, Trinity Sunday, brings us the conclusion of Peter's sermon, where he proclaimed the Jesus was both the Messiah and God incarnate, and that there is life in His name- and in the name of no other- for all who believe.

How then, does this fit with the doctrine of the Trinity? And just what is the doctrine of the Trinity that we celebrate and confess today? The Trinity is this – **“there is one God of three distinct persons, each of whom is equal with the others and all of whom are fully God.”**

Did you get that? Raise your hand if you completely understand what I just said? **“There is one God of three distinct persons, each of whom is equal with the others and all of whom are fully God.”**

The teaching on the Triune nature of God is one of those teaches that surpasses our human understanding.

John Wesley wrote, **“Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the triune God.”**

The fifth century North African church father, St. Augustine, said that, **“whoever denies the trinity is in danger of losing his salvation.**

Yet on the other side of the coin he said, **“Whoever tries to understanding the Trinity is in danger of losing his mind.”**

One day when St. Augustine was at his wits' end to understand and explain the Trinity, he went out for a walk. He kept turning over in his mind, "One God, but three Persons. Three Persons--not three Gods but one God. What does it mean? How can it be explained? How can my mind take it in?"

He was torturing his mind and beating his brains out, when he saw a little boy on the beach. He approached him to see what he was doing. The child had dug a small hole in the sand. With his hands he was carrying water from the ocean and was dumping it in the little hole. St. Augustine asked, "What are you doing, my child?" The child replied, "I want to put all of the water of the ocean into this hole." St. Augustine asked, "But is it possible for all of the water of this great ocean to be contained in this little hole?"

Then it dawned on him, "If the water of the ocean cannot be contained in this little hole, then how can the Infinite Trinitarian God be contained in your mind?"

The image God has given us in the Trinity is an image of three co-eternal, co-equal Persons giving themselves to one another. The glory of our God is not a thunder-and-lighting quality, but a self-giving love within the Trinity. The prayer of Jesus for his disciples, and us, is that this same glory may be given to us that we **‘may be one’** even as they are one.

The practical implication of the Triune Godhead is immense. Our salvation, our justification, our sanctification and our glorification all depend upon the persons and the works of our Trinitarian God. That's why it is an essential doctrine of the church. Without our Triune God we have no salvation.

Where did this doctrine come from? It has come down to us from the Apostles and the early church, based on the truth of God and Jesus in the Scripture. This is why we say, **"We have received the true faith from the Apostles."** It is the Apostles who were witnesses to Christ, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection.

As Peter said, **"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses."**

After Peter's sermon 3,000 people were baptized. Three thousand! They heard the Gospel of Christ. The Holy Spirit worked repentance in their hearts. They were brought to faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. The Church started with a bang, and it continued to grow.

**But it was not long before some people had other thoughts about Jesus.** Other thoughts about who He was and is. I am not talking about those who did not believe. I'm not talking about those who rejected Him. I am talking about those who claimed to be Christians. But they no longer believed in the same Jesus about whom the Apostles had taught. They no longer taught about the Jesus testified to in the Scriptures.

There were those who believed that God was one, and only one. No persons. No Trinity. No Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There was just God. That's it. They then tried to say that when the Scripture say, "Father," or "Son of God," or "Spirit" that God was merely appearing in that way at that time. That God sometimes showed up as Father, and then appeared as the Son, and other times as the Spirit. But it was just the same one God. Just like a man, can be a son, a husband, and a father. Three different names, three different roles, but all the same guy. Or the way that water can be ice, or liquid, or steam. It's all the same water, just different modes or forms.

And we still have false religions teaching this today. It's usually called Unitarianism or sometimes Unity. These people were all about the number One.

Then there were those who said yes, they were three, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But they said, it is only the Father who is truly God. Jesus, is the Son of God. He was created by the Father they claimed. So, Jesus was like-God, almost God, a kind of God. But not fully God. Not in the same way that the Father is. They were not equal. The same they said also applied to the Spirit. He was just a tag-along. So they had three, but they did not have a Trinity.

Now all of this was going on in the fourth century. So, all of the bishops came together in a church council at Nicea in 325. There they wrote most of the Nicene Creed. But what they wrote was not enough to end the claims of those who said Jesus was just "god-like." So 76 years later, in 381, the Emperor called all the bishops together again at Constantinople. And now finally, the false teaching of Jesus being about "god-like" was ended. They finished the Nicene Creed as we have it today.

It tells us that Jesus is **"very God of very God, which means true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father?"**

Those words are in the creed to show that Jesus was truly and completely God, not just God like. And that there are three persons in the Trinity, not just one unitary God force. Well, okay, but does it really matter whether God is a unity or a trinity? Does it matter if He is 1 person or 3 persons? I mean, if you believe in Jesus, that's what counts, right?

What you believe about God, about the Trinity, has a direct effect on what you believe about Jesus. While a rose by any other name may smell as sweet, a false Jesus by the same name is still false. So, how then are the Trinity and Jesus connected?

If you believe that there is just a Oneness, just God, then when Jesus died on the cross did the Father also die? And if the Father died, who raised Jesus from the dead? And if when Jesus died, he was the man Jesus only and only an "appearance" of this oneness God, how can his death accomplish anything? For mere men die every day.

**That's what happens with oneness. So that's out.**

But these other people, maybe they are on to something. I mean, the Bible says, "Son of God" lots of times, and I cannot find the word "Trinity" anywhere in the Bible. Maybe they have a point.

The word, "Trinity" is not in the Bible, but the truth of the Trinity is there. If Jesus is only God-like, then what did His death do? Only the death of the eternal God, unlimited by time & space, would be powerful enough to reach through all time and space, across the centuries and across the miles from Jerusalem to Ohio, from then until now, to you and to me, to Christians everywhere, and those gone before us and those yet to come.

It is this Jesus and this Trinity that Peter preached about that day. What did he say? **"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."**

Both Lord and Christ? Yes. Christ means Messiah. God's chosen and anointed one. And were Jesus Messiah only, then one might argue He was a great prophet but not God. However, Peter says that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Lord. God eternal. Jesus is 100% man and 100% God. Not mostly God. Not God-like. God.

Peter talked about the whole Trinity in the verses before. **"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."** Jesus, who was raised by the Father, is exalted to the Father's right hand. For the Father to share His glory with the Son would be impossible and wrong, were the Son not also God, but only god-like.

This is why Peter quotes from King David, **"The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand."** Meaning, The Lord, the Father, said to my Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, sit at my right hand. Jesus is True God.

And we see that the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father and the Son. Having received the promise of the Spirit from the Father, so Jesus received the Spirit from the Father, and he has poured out the Spirit. Look back at the Nicene Creed, in the third Article, **"I believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son."**

The word Trinity is not in the Bible, it's a theological term. But the truth of the Trinity surely is.

But what does that all mean to us? It means this. That you and I can be completely assured of our salvation in Christ. It is only Christ, the Son of God, who suffered and died for us. But our salvation is the work of the whole Trinity. And it's all right there in Peter's sermon. He said, **"this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death."**

We know that the sacrifice of Jesus is acceptable to God the Father because it was the plan of the Father. It was the Father who raised Him from the dead. We know that His sacrifice is sufficient for all people, reaching to you & to me, because Jesus is truly God. As Peter says, **"For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."**

We know that we have fully received this gift of salvation. A new car can be paid for, but a paid receipt alone won't get you anywhere. You have to have the title and the keys; it has to be delivered. Our salvation is not just paid for, but it has been delivered to us. **"Be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."** We have received the Spirit sent by the Father and the Son. Because the Holy Spirit is God, we can be certain that He will perfectly deliver salvation to us. No slip-ups. No mistakes. All is provided for by our Trinitarian God- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN!**

### **Revelation Song**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Holy, holy is He;  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my everything and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color;  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be  
To You, the only wise King.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my everything and I will adore You.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name.  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water;  
Such a marvelous mystery.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my everything and I will adore You.



## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

PASTOR: O blessed and holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear the prayers of Your people & grant to us all things according to Your Word and promise. In the beginning, Father, Your Word spoke all things into being and from nothing You made all that is. Help us to see the imprint of Your love in the goodness of creation and to exercise responsible care of all that You have entrusted to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Throughout the ages, Father, Your Spirit filled the sin-stained world with hope and called us to repentance and faith. Help us to hear the voice of Your Word and to respond with faith, confessing You without fear before all manner of people and in every corner of the earth. As You planned long before the world began, deliver us in Christ, that we may be Your own and live according to Your commands all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: In government and law, Father, You work to establish and preserve order, protecting the weak and fostering godly virtue. Bless our president; our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Deliver the world from the threats of pandemic and tyranny, and preserve the nations in peace. Bless all who defend us in the armed forces, aid us in emergency and medical fields, and inform us with news. Hinder those who oppress any peoples with mistruth, violence or fear. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: In the hour of trial and in the moment of trouble, You are there, Father. Hear us as we cry to You for the sake of the sick, the troubled in mind, the wounded in heart and those who grieve. Deliver them from affliction as You will, and sustain them in hope with a patient heart and strength for the day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: In the company of the saints, Father, You have shown us that You will not abandon Your people but will keep them to everlasting life. Receive our thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, and bring us at last to dwell with them in Your presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: In this hour of worship, Father, You serve us with gifts of Your grace so that forgiven we might know the gift of a clear conscience and redeemed we might honor You with all we think, say and do. Accept the sacrifice of our praise and the tithes and offerings we bring. Lord, in Your mercy,

**CONGREGATION: hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: All these things and whatever else You know we need, we pray You to grant us, Father, for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore.

**CONGREGATION: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)**

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**PASTOR:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**CONGREGATION:** Amen.

**POSTLUDE: "At Your Name"**