

# Trinity Sunday

6-07-2020

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## Celebrate (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 of the Son, and of 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.”

## Opening Hymn: [“Come Thou Almighty King”](#)

### Psalm 8

“O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!  
Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted  
<sup>2</sup> by the mouth of babes and infants,  
thou hast founded a bulwark because of thy foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.  
<sup>3</sup> When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;  
<sup>4</sup> what is man that thou art mindful of him,  
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?  
<sup>5</sup> Yet thou hast made him little less than God,  
and dost crown him with glory and honor.  
<sup>6</sup> Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands;  
thou hast put all things under his feet,  
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.  
<sup>9</sup> O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!”

## Hymn of Praise: [“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”](#)

### Prayer of the Day

“Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal 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.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** [Genesis 1:1-2:4](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)

**The Gospel:** [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

**Hymn of the Day:** [“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”](#)

**The Message** ([Video Link](#))

Sitting on my porch Thursday night I watched the storms overtake the darkness. There seemed to be several different storm cells which never directly struck my location but the distance lightning lighted the darkness of the night. Even though storms are considered to be the turmoil of nature, I found the experience to be profoundly peaceful. It was reassuring to know that nature continues to follow its course regardless of the turmoil and crisis man may be living. It is a calming influence to know and experience the awesome wonders of the creation which God has given us. Even in an often frightening thunder storm we can find peace for we are drawn from man's trials and crisis to the awe and wonder of God's creation. The ancient people were correct in seeing the wonders of this creation by relating, “And God saw that it was good.”

All too often in our modern world and living in urban settings, people no longer have the experience of the natural world which God has given us. All too many never experience the daily wonders of nature. Instead, the creations of man formed out brick, mortar, steel, and asphalt are the daily experience. Accompanying this is the hustle and bustle of the economic reality which allows little or no time to have those calming and peaceful times in the natural world of God's handiwork.

This lack of experiencing God's natural world hinders any understanding of God as the creator. Thus there is little concept that God, the Father, continues to reveal Himself through that which He created. This makes it so much easier to indiscriminately destroy that precious gift of His handiwork. No longer does God's love through His creation have any sense of reality and concern. All too often we much rather live in the world of man's creation to the exclusion of the peace within God's world of nature. Not only is this love denied as found in God's creation but denied in living among His children. More likely man chooses to follow the way of allowing fear and hate to rule relationships. Love becomes misinterpreted as loving only those like me. In this there is no peace.

The words of the psalmist need to resound in our minds. “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars you have set in their courses, what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?” The answer is that He is our Father whose love never ceases regardless of how we may deny Him and deny the gifts He has given us.

But this endless love of God through His creation was not enough. God reinforced His love through the revelation of Jesus. Jesus was necessary to live the example of the loving Father for His creation. Jesus' message was clear. It was not a message of death and destruction but a

message of hope and life through love. His message proclaimed that everybody, regardless of social and economic standings, or being the brunt of social bias or prejudice, are a part of God's creation and are loved by God as their Father. Time and time again Jesus' life illustrated this message. Just remember the powerful messages of the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan woman at the well, eating with those who were considered to be unclean, or healing those considered to be enemies. He clearly stated, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." He goes on to further clarify God's love, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even the sinners love those who love them."

God's reason for His revelation through Jesus can be found in Jesus' words, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." This abundant life was further clarified in that it was to be a life lived through God's love. He proclaimed, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Tragically, even this revelation of Jesus God's message of love is being denied by so many. It seems as though we rather follow the whims and wishes of false prophets who dress in sheep's clothes. The demand of one's ego leads us into thinking that we know what love is. It isn't until a tragedy happens that we are shaken to our core of being and begin to understand the suffering which others may be receiving from societal neglect and wrongdoings. This is the time to let God's ever present Spirit begin to guide us towards actions of love. God has not abandoned us in this time of trial and crisis.

We need to see that God's love is ever present and needs to be fulfilled. Jesus promised, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." To know this spirit of God within us we must be honest with ourselves and not allow our own personal agendas keep us from the truth. This is particularly difficult during this time of highly charged political and biased emotions. But it is during such a time of crisis that we must take the time to reflect upon our lives and how we can best help bring healing to the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

This means that we must reflect upon God's revelation through His creation, through the message of Jesus and His presence with us. It is through this reflection of the revelations of God, the Holy Trinity, that will lead us not only to the truth but to the paths of bringing healing to a troubled society and nation. Take heed of the psalmist's words to first "Be still and know that I am God." Peace will then begin to take over our lives and the world in which we live. Peace be with you.

**The Anthem:** ["Let There Be Peace on Earth"](#)

**The Offering\***

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

## **The Prayer**

Our Father, Creator of all the world, we come to you with thanksgiving for all the gifts you have given us, especially the gift of life. Give us the wisdom to use these gifts wisely so that future generations will see and experience the wonders of your creation. During this time of crisis give us the will and courage to live the love you have shown us to all of our brothers and sisters. Direct us in the ways of your Spirit of Truth so that we may be your emissaries of peace. We continually ask for your healing presence with those who are suffering from the pandemic. Bring safety to those who are your arms of healing while treating those who are fighting this dreaded virus. May we find the peace which you alone can give during these trying times.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, Robert Karner, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you;  
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters  
Live on knowing God's love,  
The joy of living this life of love,  
And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.  
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"](#)

\*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Epiphany Website: <http://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>