

**Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.” – Matthew 18:20**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMC)
Springfield, GA
Home Worship Bulletin
June 7th – Holy Trinity Sunday**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living God, you have given us grace, by the confession of the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and, in the power of your divine majesty, to worship the unity. Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at**

last to see you in your eternal glory, one God, now and forever. Amen

+LITURGY OF THE WORD+

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The 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. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And 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. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹And 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights- the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So 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. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And 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. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶Then 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." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And 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." ²⁹And 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **Genesis 2:1** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host

of them. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 8

¹ O LORD our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the world!

² **Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴ **what is man that you should be mindful of him, the son of man that you should seek him out?**

⁵ You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honor;

⁶ **you give him mastery over the works of your hands; you put all things under his feet:**

⁷ all sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸ **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.**

⁹ O LORD our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the world!

Glory 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. Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them. ²² "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- ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ "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. ³⁰ 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, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ 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. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "' The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.' ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Dr. James Cavanah

In part, our Gospel text on this Holy Trinity Sunday, reads, "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, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Immediately, we are confronted with familiar words. We have heard these words so many times that they are practically etched into our minds. Rightly so! These are the words of the Great Commission! They form the very marching orders that Jesus gave to His church. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus commissioned us, not just pastors, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, Bible scholars, or theologians but Jesus commissioned us, you and me, the members of His church, to take the message of the Gospel to the earth.

Yet, that is not all that we find in the words penned by Matthew, the tax collector. There are at least two other very important points that we are called to understand. Jesus calls us to make disciples and to baptize them into the membership of His church. Jesus then explicitly tells us who to properly administer His Word in the sacrament of baptism. This is what we call the Trinitarian-formula. Jesus said, "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, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." When one joins the church one does so through the outward means of baptism (water) and the (Word). "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." In this text, the mystery of the Trinity is revealed and confirmed.

Next, Matthew records the words of Jesus found in verse 18 that are all too often overlooked but these words are important and extremely powerful. In His preamble to the Great Commission, Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Our Saviour spoke those words just prior to His Ascension. He had won His earthly victory. He died and rose from the grave to secure our salvation. In the words of verse 18, Jesus absolutely affirmed His victory. He was ascended to the right-hand of the Father. There He exercises , absolute, complete, and sovereign authority as He rules over heaven and earth, even now!

You may not remember The Wide World of Sports. I do! I remember it's opening each week very well. The show began with majestic music followed by these words, "Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport; the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat...the human drama of athletic competition. This is ABC's *Wide World of Sports*."

Do any of those words sound familiar to you? To this very day, when I hear the words, "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" there appears in my mind the image is of a downhill snow skier in good form headed down hill toward the jump. Then, suddenly, for no apparent reason, as he nears the jump, his skis fly out from under him and the skier tumbles head over heels, and bounces off the supporting structure down into the snow below.

Life can be well planned and thought-out but it can change in an instant. Not so, regarding Jesus. He was born to die. He took on our humanity, to pay the penalty for our sin. He came to

suffer and to serve. There are those who say, Jesus failed! In reality, He won! He secured our salvation, our forgiveness and He Himself is our peace with God! As Paul wrote, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Corinthians 5:21).

Let's get back to the words, "the agony of defeat". It has been a rough few months. Let's be honest and pull our heads out of the sand. There have been times when we have felt defeated. Perhaps, you feel that way right now. Just look at what we have faced in the past few months.

The Covid-19 virus has ravaged our "normal" daily lives. We were told to shelter-in-place. Fear of widespread illness and death sparked panic buying. Certain grocery shelves were bare. Some businesses cut back their hours and some closed completely. Millions of people lost their jobs and their incomes. Others had their incomes cut. Many had to learn new ways to work, like working from home.

Then the stock market began to fall. Investments and people's savings in the market dropped. Fear over sickness and a novel virus was compounded by fear and uncertainty in the economy. It wasn't enough, political unrest was compounded. Our government, at every level, sought to address the reality and the fears. These actions brought more anxiety to us as a people.

On top of all this, came the enormous power of human sin that has brought division to our nation, again. Protesters took to the streets. Government called upon Law Enforcement and the National Guard to keep order and peace. Lines were drawn.

As I said, "It has been a rough few months." Just last night a friend said to me, "First political tensions, then a virus, the economy tanked, injustice, protests, violence, destruction, civil unrest, and now, June has come and we are entering hurricane season." It has been a rough few months and there is no absolute end in sight.

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. In the church, we celebrate the mystery of the Triune God. One God who is eternal, without beginning or end. One God who is holy, just, righteous, wise, living, kind, forgiving, gracious, merciful, and unchanging. What a great and marvelous truth! What a wonderful majesty to seek to comprehend and love.

Yet, on this Holy Trinity Sunday, what does the truth of the Trinity have to do with you and me and the world in which we live? It has been a rough few months. How does God's Word speak to us today in the mess in which we find ourselves, our nation, and our world?

First, we affirm God the Father. The issue is not whether or not there is a God. Mr. Gallop has told us that 96% of Americans believe in the existence of a supernatural divine being in some form or another. The real question is what kind of a God? The Bible teaches that God the Father, so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son. Yes, God is holy, just, and righteous. Yet, God hates and will not tolerate sin. Yes, God is wrathful toward sin. But, the love of God is the major emphasis that runs throughout the Bible.

The prophet Jeremiah caught the true message of our religion when he heard God say to him, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." There is no message which breaks down the resistance of disobedient hearts like the message of unconditional and persistent love. A love bestowed in spite of what we have done; a love given that was not earned; a love that came despite our resistance and rebellion; a love that healed when sickness pervaded our souls; a love that even in our day restores.

What does the truth of the Trinity have to do with you and me and the world in which we live? The Gospel reminds us that no matter who we are or what we have done, or what is happening around us in our world, we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and cares for us and provides for us.

Secondly, we affirm Jesus Christ the Son. The Bible teaches us that God became human. The Second Person of the Trinity became man. He took our form and lived among us. He shared in our suffering. He experienced our pain, trials, and temptations. Yet, unlike us, He never sinned!

Danish theologian Soren Kiekegard told a story of a prince who wanted to find a maiden suitable to be his queen. One day, the prince passed through a small and very poor village. As he glanced out the window of the carriage his eyes fell upon a beautiful peasant girl. Over the course of the next few weeks the prince often passed by the young girl. He soon fell in love but he had a problem. How would he seek her hand?

The prince could order her to marry him but he wanted a wife that really loved him. He could put on his royal robes and overwhelmed with all of his splendor or he could find another solution. The prince laid aside his robes. He moved into the village. He wore the clothing of a common peasant. He lived among the people. He shared their interests and concerns. He spoke their language. In time the young girl grew to love him for who he was as a man.

It's really a simple childlike story, written to explain the incarnation. God came and lived, among us. I like the story for two reasons: (1) it illustrates of us that God is with us, He is on our side, and that He loves us; (2) it gives us a firsthand view of what the mind of God is like. When people ask what God is like, we can point to Jesus. In Jesus the incomprehensible God makes Himself knowable. We get a glimpse of His glory from one very much like us. We also see the depth of God's love in His willingness to go all the way to a cross to fully express His love for us.

What does the truth of the Trinity have to do with you and me and the world in which we live? The Gospel reminds us that no matter who we are or what we have done, or what is happening around us in our world, Jesus Christ loves us and He has promised to be with us always; even in the trials, temptations, and tribulations of this life.

Finally, we affirm belief in the Holy Spirit. In the Apostles' Creed we affirm our faith in the Holy Spirit as we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

To put it another way. The Holy Spirit is the infinite become intimate. Before Jesus left this earth, He promised not to leave His followers as orphans. He promised to send the Comforter, the Helper, The Holy Spirit is that Person, the Third Person of the Trinity. He is with us and He brings us into an intimacy with God the Father and the Son.

In John 16:7-11 we read these words of Jesus, ⁷"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He comes to us to help us, to comfort us, to guide us, to give us assurance, and to remind us of the hope that is ours in the Gospel.

We cannot begin to fathom the incomprehensible mysteries of God, but that does not mean that we cannot know God. Someone once asked Mrs. Albert Einstein if she understood her husband's theory of relativity. No, she said, but I know my husband. We don't really understand the mystery of the Trinity. But we do experience the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

What does the truth of the Trinity have to do with you and me and the world in which we live? The mystery of the Trinity gives us hope! You and I know all too well "the agony of defeat". We are sinful human beings. We live in a fallen, sinful, evil, and wicked world. Yet, into this world God came in the Person of Jesus Christ and He remains in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity gives us something firm and solid to cling to in difficult days when defeat appears certain. When doubt and fear and anxiety come upon us, God comes to us. He comes to you and me in the Person of Jesus Christ and says I am your brother, let me show you the Father, and give you the Holy Spirit.

In our fear, doubt, sorry, and anxiety Jesus comes and says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" as He points us to the mystical truth, importance, and power of the

Holy Trinity who never leaves us nor forsakes us and in Him, the agony of defeat has been turned into complete victory for you and me.

Thanks be to God!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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!

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Holy Trinity, hear our prayers. As we as we confess our sins and receive Your forgiveness open our hearts to the blessings of Your love freely given to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour and bestowed upon us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Holy Spirit, fill us with Your presence and wisdom; give us a love for the church, the Gospel, and the world. Conform us to the image of Christ. May all our thoughts, words, and deeds reflect the hope and power of our new life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for Your Holy Church, for the LCMC, for our sister churches, pastors and congregations and for our partners in the work of the Gospel: World Mission Prayer League, Mission on the Move, Treutlen House, Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, God's Mission House, Tartu Theological Academy, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, and all who faithfully serve You in proclamation of Your One True Gospel. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, we pray for all of our elected and appointed officials and those who serve in our courts. We pray for our nation's military, for Dustin and all who are deployed. Watch over and protect all of our First Responders, and all our medical workers as they labour against the Covid-19 virus and all other disease and sickness. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You are our peace. Give to Your church, to our communities, and to our nation peace. Grant us a spirit of unity and give us wisdom to work through the myriad of divisions that face this nation. Holy Father, rule and over rule in our midst. Calm the intentions of evil and bring victory over sin. May the truth of Your Gospel shine in the hearts of Your people. Make us the instruments of Your peace in the midst of turmoil. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those out of work and have families to support according to Your riches in glory. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with all our students, teachers, and educational staff. Give to them diligence, wisdom, and understanding, to persevere and prepare for the future. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with those in need of work. Restore sound industry and commerce. Lift up all those in need and pour out Your blessings upon us in our stages of life. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for so many in need: for our members Brian, Loretta & Charles, Margaret, Brenda & Carl, Fulton, Doris, Harper, Preston, Angie, Debbie, and Dawn; for our extended family and friends Becky, Darwin, Pr. Robert, Merry, Elizabeth, Raymond, Steve, Christopher, Alice, Shirley, Jim, Monteen, Fran, Izzy, Alaina; and for our homebound Betty Jo, Linda, Eva Belle; and for those serving in the military, Dustin and Marcus. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, hear our prayers and receive them for the sake of the crucified and risen one, your Son our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us we are bold to prayer: **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.**

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor + and give us peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.