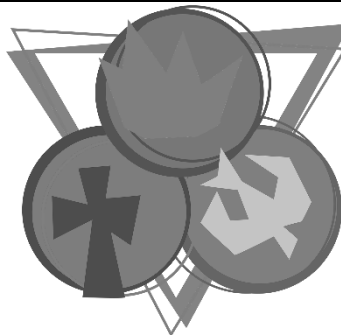


# THE HOLY TRINITY

How Can This Be?  
Love Story of the Holy Trinity

May 30, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we do not so much explain God as confess Him. We testify to Him who has revealed Himself to us. To the mind in search of reasonable answers, God will always be a question or riddle to be solved. But to the empty heart, the Holy Spirit leads us to see with faith the God whose majesty has worked for our salvation and whose mercy has rescued us sinners from sin and the grave. Like Nicodemus of old, we want to know how, yet our Lord gives us not the how, but the who; not the explanation, but the mystery of mercy big enough to save us. We come today confessing with our fathers in faith the Athanasian Creed, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and rejoicing in the God who is bigger than we are, but who becomes one of us to save us. The Sunday following Pentecost is always Holy Trinity. On this day we are confronted with who God is through what God does. He is the mighty God, the One in Three, before whom we sing “Holy, Holy, Holy.” He is also the Christ, the Savior who comes in flesh to redeem His fallen creation and restore the lost to Himself. He is also the Spirit who blows when and where He wills but breathes life into those dead in trespasses and sin and bestows faith where fear once lived. It all is expressed in the God who so loved the world—the most familiar and beloved Bible passage. Here, in this Gospel in a nutshell, is the triune God at work for us and our salvation.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son Holy Trinity, Three in One, be in our meeting and our greeting, in the worship we share and the words of our prayer. The blessing of Father, Spirit, Son Holy Trinity, Three in One, be in our living and our breathing, that through our hearts and our words your truth may be heard. O Triune God, your threefold name was placed upon us when we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And this day we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance of Majesty coequal. Grant us the grace to continue in this faith until we join the hosts of heaven that cry, Holy, holy, holy before your heavenly throne, you who live and rule, one God, through all eternity. Amen.

## **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE:** May the LORD bless each generation with his Gospel Truth on this Holy Trinity Sunday.... We are thankful that the Triune God has allowed you to enter into our community of faith. Brothers and sisters. If you lift your net and it is empty, Come here! We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance. If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, Come here! We'll find the Risen Christ here among us. If your life is filled with mourning, Come here! Christ is leading a dance of joy. Come here, sisters and brothers! To give blessing and honor and glory to God! Let us worship the Triune God, the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us from sorrow-filled endings to bright new beginnings. Welcome!

## **HYMN      "Holy, Holy, Holy" TLH 246 Sts. 1-2**

- 1.      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!**
- 2.      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.**

## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:**            In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:**            **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

**Pastor:**            Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**People:**            **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.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

**ATHANASIAN CREED** *Part 1*

Pastor: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the Christian faith.

People: **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**

Pastor: And the Christian faith is this,

People: **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**

Pastor: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

People: **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

Pastor: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

People: **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

Pastor: the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

People: **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**

Pastor: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

People: **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

Pastor: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

**People: and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.**

Pastor: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

**People: and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

Pastor: So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

**People: and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE            “Holy, Holy, Holy” TLH 246 Sts. 3-4**

**3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see, Only Thou art Holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**4. 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!**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**People: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING    *Isaiah 6:1-8*    (We have seen the Lord of hosts.)**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

### GRADUAL *Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b*

Leader: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. On Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.

### EPISTLE *Acts 2:14a, 22–36* (Let all know that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### VERSE *Isaiah 6:3b*

Leader: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia.

### HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17* (“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.”)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SELECTION

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## SERMON

## SELECTION

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**(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)**

## **ATHANASIAN CREED** *Part 2*

**Leader:** Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

**People:** **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**

**Leader:** The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

**People:** **The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**

**Leader:** Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

**People:** **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**

**Leader:** but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

**People:** **Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:** Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

**People:** **Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages!**

**Leader:** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we trust in You and confess without fear the name of the triune God with which we were marked in Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we approach the mystery of Your presence with awe, confident of Your mercy that forgives our sins and comforted by Your power that delivers us from everlasting death. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Grant to us grace, O Lord, that Your Church be firmly established in this faith, united in the truth of Your Word, and served by faithful pastors and church workers who will faithfully minister to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant to us grace, O Lord, that missionaries far and near be protected by Your power and blessed in their service so that many may hear, and hearing, believe in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant to us grace, O Lord, that those who suffer afflictions of body and mind be delivered according to Your will, sustained by Your presence, and delivered to everlasting life, [*especially . . . , and those we name in our hearts . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant to us grace, O Lord, that knowing Your goodness in creation, we use Your gifts wisely and for the benefit of all people and bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant to us grace, O Lord, to remember those who went before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, and guide us that we faithfully confess Your name until we join them in Your nearer presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we find contentment of heart and that we know the riches of Your mercy as our greatest treasure in life and our hope in death. Lord in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

**People: Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages!**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

### **ATHANASIAN CREED** *Part 3*

Leader: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**

**Leader:** He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

**People:** **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**

**Leader:** equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

**People:** **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**

**Leader:** one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

**People:** **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

**Leader:** For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

**People:** **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**

**Leader:** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**People:** **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**

**Leader:** And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

**People:** **This is the Christian faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

### **BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**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.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

### **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**