

Trinity Knot Image from stillsmallvoicebycgs.blogspot.com

Trinity Sunday

1928 BCP Holy Communion

Sunday, June 15, 2025 + 10 AM St. John's Chapel, Del Monte

Welcome to St. John's Chapel!

We are glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor, please fill out a Connection Card (pew rack) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. Let this bulletin be your guide through the service; it includes everything you need.

This is Trinity Sunday: the first Sunday after



Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. Trinity Sunday celebrates the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The

liturgical color for this day is white.

Next Sunday we enter Ordinary Time – the Sundays after Trinity. This extended season is all about growth in the Spirit and being nurtured. The kind of growth and nurturing that creates abundant fruit. In fact, in St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Paul tells us that if we welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, then the Spirit will produce fruit in us. "The fruit of the Spirit," he says, "is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22–23). Through baptism, these virtues, these gifts of the Spirit, are planted in our soul. It is during this season of Ordinary Time that we work on cultivating the gifts of the Spirit.

Please stay for coffee in the Parish Hall after the service.

Throughout the service the People read the words in bold and italics.

PRELUDE

Standing as able



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. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

And the Priest, standing reverently before the Holy Table, shall say the Collect following, the People kneeling

Almighty God, unto 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 thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

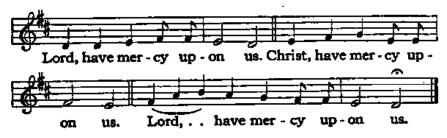
THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Then shall the Priest, turning to the People, shall say

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE



COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Priest says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

The people kneeling

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy 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; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen*.

The people sit

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-8

Reader: A reading from the 6th chapter of the Book of Isaiah, beginning at the 1st verse.

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that

cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Reader: Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

Then shall follow a Portion of the Psalms. And at the end of the Psalm, shall be sung or said the Gloria Patri. Stand as able

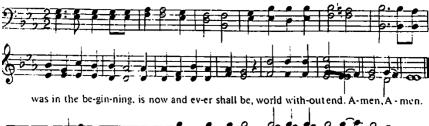
PSALM 8 Domine, Dominus noster

Reader: We will read Psalm 8 responsively by the whole verse.

- 1 O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world; * thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!
- 2 Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, * that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider thy heavens, even the work of thy fingers; * the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;

- 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? * and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
- 5 Thou madest him lower than the angels, * to crown him with glory and worship.
- 6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands; * and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet:
- 7 All sheep and oxen; * yea, and the beasts of the field;
- 8 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; * and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
- 9 O Lord our Governor, * how excellent is thy Name in all the world!







The people sit

THE EPISTLE: Revelation 4:1-11

Reader: A reading of the 4th chapter of the book of Revelation, beginning at the 1st verse.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said,

Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. And the first was like a lion. and the second like a calf, and the third had a face as a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, the four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory

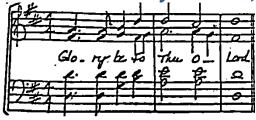
and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.

Reader: Here endeth the Epistle.

THE GOSPEL: St. John 3:1-15 All standing as able

Priest The Holy Gospel is written in the 14th chapter of St. John, beginning at the 15th verse.

GLORIA TIBI Glory be to thee, O Lord



THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born

of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

LAUS TIBI Praise be to thee, O Christ

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The people sit

SERMON A Word About God Fr. Rick Miles

All stand as able THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please be seated*BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your child/children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

God of peace, your love is generous and reaches out to hold us all in your embrace. We pray now for the couple(s) before us, committed to each other in love. Fill their hearts with tenderness. Stay with them as they travel through good times, through trouble, or through change. Bless their home, their partings, and their meetings. Make them worthy of each other's best and tender with each other's dreams. May they always trust in your love. Amen.

Prayer for Safe Travel

Living God, the creator of all there is and whose presence we find wherever we go: preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; guard them from all that may harm them: and bring them in safety and joy to their journey's end. Amen.

OFFERTORY

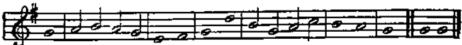
Priest Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labour to the Lord.

HYMN 480 (v. 1 & 2) Holy off rings, rich and rare Sung while seated



DOXOLOGY HYMN 139 Standing as able





Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AMERICA HYMN 141, v. 4



4 Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen.

Standing as able

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou are exalted as head above all.

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,
People And of thine own have we given thee.

PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE STATE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

<u>People kneel</u> and then shall the Priest, facing the altar, say

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

Almighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy

goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray especially for: Alice and Fr. Michael, Margee, Brighten, Randi, John S., Luke, Mackenzie's family and friends, Beverly, Gloria, Gail, Dan and Caitlin, Lila, Bill B., Geoffrey and Amy, Art and Debbie, Danny, Logan, Nancy, Mousy and family, Christine and family, Connie, Jeremey, Carl, Zane, Bethany and family, Pete T., Bill S., Joanne, Baby Boy Fleatcher, Mara Stephanie, Fr. Vincent Raj, Rocco, Claudette, Christina, Rori and Shane, Art C., Dean and Monica, James, Ron, Eva, Jane B., Peter, and all those whom we name in our hearts.

And for those in military service: The Birkelbach family, Walid Abou Chaar, Fouad El Hayek, Elizabeth Keller, Christine Puglia, The Riley family, The Logan Behr family, The Bingham family, The Elliot family, The Hollingsworth family, Zack and Ebony LeMaster, The O'Donnell family, and The Schaeffer family.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, remembering all those who continue in our hearts; beseeching thee grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen*.

Then shall the Priest, facing the people, say

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Then shall this General Confession be made, by the Priest (facing the altar) and all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, all humbly kneeling as able

CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Then shall the Priest (the Bishop if present) stand up, and turning to the People, say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Then shall the Priest say

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. St. Matthew 11: 28.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his onlybegotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John 3:16*.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *St. John 2:1-2*.

HOLY COMMUNION

After which the Priest shall proceed, saying THE SURSUM CORDA (people standing as able)

Priest. The Lord be with you.

Answer. *And with thy spirit.*Priest. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. It is meet and right so to do.

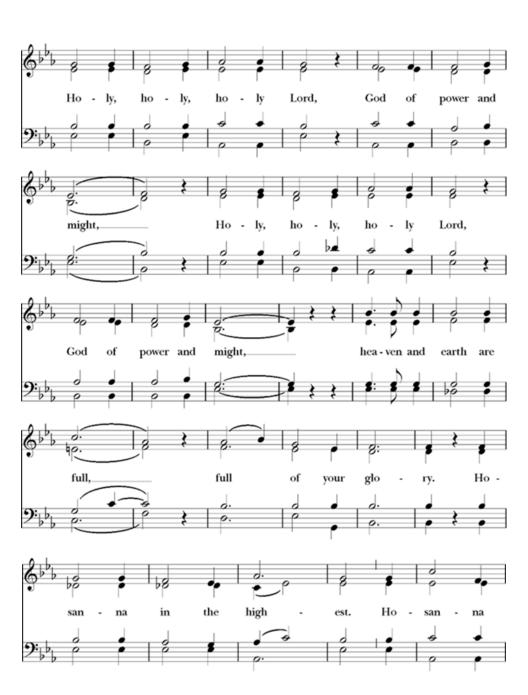
Then shall the Priest turn to the Holy Table, and say (people standing as able)

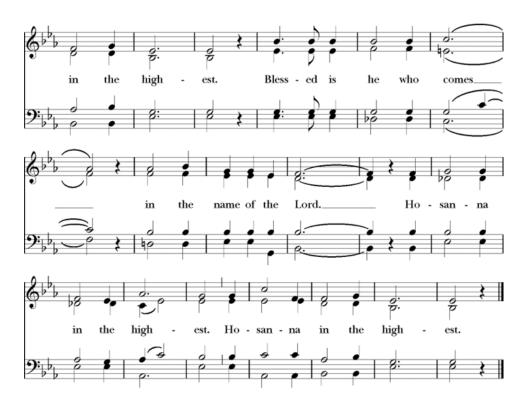
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Who, with thine only-begotten Son, and the Holy Ghost, art one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Substance. For that which we believe of thy glory, O Father, the same we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any difference of inequality.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Priest and people standing as able **SANCTUS**





The people kneeling as able. When the Priest, standing before the Holy Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more readiness and decency break the Bread before the People, and take the Cup into his hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and

did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE OBLATION

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

THE INVOCATION

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and

service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest and people

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall the Priest, <u>kneeling down</u> at the Lord's Table, say [with the people], in the name of all those who shall receive the Communion, this Prayer following

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Priest and people

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.





COMMUNION

The priest turns to the people and says

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Then shall the Priest First receive the Holy Communion in both kinds himself, and proceed to deliver the same to the Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, in like manner, (if any be present,) and, after that, to the People also in order, into their hands, all devoutly kneeling as able at the altar rail.

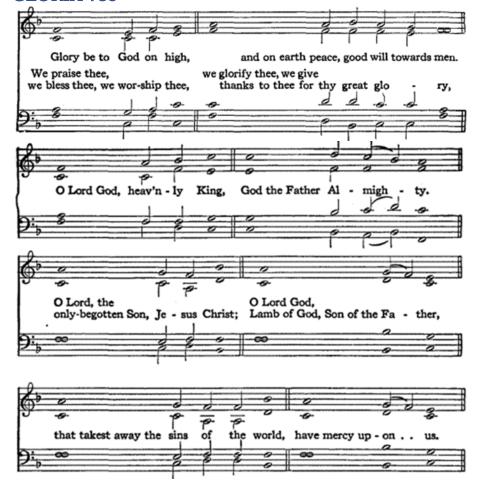
Then shall the Priest say, the people kneeling as able, POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech

thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Then shall be said the Gloria in excelsis, <u>all standing</u> GLORIA 739





THE BLESSING

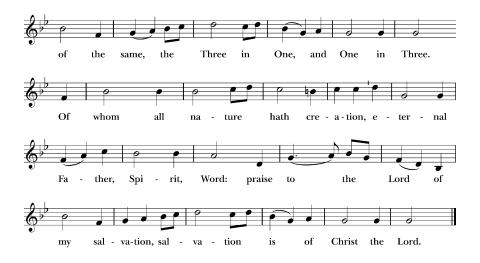
Then, the People kneeling, the Priest (the Bishop if present) shall let them depart with this Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

HYMN 268 I bind unto myself today (v. 1, 5, 7)

Standing as able





DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Stephanie Hulsey in memory of her beloved father, John S. Myszak.

Serving Today

Acolyte: Art Brost

Lay Reader: Margee Bennett

Usher: Chibby Ogbuka

Volunteers needed for all ministry areas! We need help in every ministry area including acolytes, altar guild, and ushers. If you are able to assist on one Sunday per month, please contact the church office (831) 375-4463.

Upcoming

- Sunday, June 22, Morning Prayer at 10 AM.
- Sunday, June 29, Holy Communion at 10 AM.

Pastoral Emergency? Please call the church office (831) 375-4463, or to get in touch with Fr. Rick call (336) 613-2829.

The bulletins are completely underwritten by a private donation.

Staff

Priest-in-Charge: The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Miles

Organist: Mary Clare Martin

Parish Administrator: Cynthia Brown

Bookkeeper: Brieanne Goldberg

Sexton: Jose Martinez

Vestry & Officers of the Parish

Senior Warden: Geoffrey Holland

Junior Warden: Art Brost Treasurer: Monica Nathan Clerk: Elizabeth Barratt

Jean Givetz Amy Holland Chibby Ogbuka Luke Stock Moran

Ministry Directors

Director of Readers: Monica Nathan Director of Ushers: Chibby Ogbuka

Director of Acolytes: Art Brost

Altar Guild: Alice Bowhay, Jean Givetz, Gail Strandberg, Marti Myszak, and Margee Bennett Weddings: Margee Bennett and Cynthia Brown Historians/Archivists: Richard & Elizabeth Barratt



TRINITY: UNDERSTANDING THE THREE PERSONS OF GOD

An article from Our Daily Bread (ourdailybread.org)

Some Christians try to explain God's three- in-oneness as God 'revealing' Himself to us in three different ways. Sometimes He shows Himself as the Father, sometimes as the Son and sometimes as the Spirit. Others try to say God is like an egg... an egg has three main parts (the yolk, white and shell) whilst still being one egg. But God doesn't just change personality, and He isn't really like an egg. The Bible describes God as "one" who is three Persons. But their relationship and unity means they have a special 'oneness' making them, together, the one and only God. Let's break this down by looking at the Father, Son and Spirit.

"In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

~ *Matthew 6:9*

God the Father: When Jesus taught His followers how to pray, He said they were to talk to "Our Father in heaven" (Matt. 6:9). We are also told that Christians are actually children of the Father: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1 niv).

The Father in heaven wants to have a personal, family-like relationship with us, the people He has created. However, it is clear in the Bible that we cannot know the Father without knowing His Son, Jesus.

God the Son: Jesus came to earth over 2,000 years ago, claiming "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30) and "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also" (John 14:7). This is more than a husband saying, "My wife and I are one." Jesus is saying He is just as much God as the Father.

I and My Father are one. ~ John 10:30

He is saying that if we know Him, we also know the Father. They are the same God, but different Persons.

Before Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension back to the Father, He promised to send a "Helper" who would be with us forever (John 14:16). Just as our relationship with the Father depends on Jesus, our relationship with Jesus depends on the Holy Spirit, the "Helper".

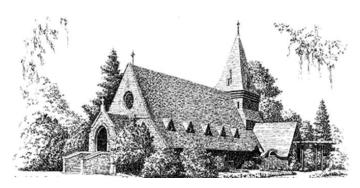
God the Spirit: Sometimes the Holy Spirit is confused as a 'power' or force. So He is likened to electricity. However, Jesus makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Christians are people who, having trusted

Jesus to give them new life with God, receive the Holy Spirit forever. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us (Rom. 8:14), teaching us about who God is and who He has made us to be (John 14:26; 16:12-15).

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ~ John 14:26

Jesus also said the Holy Spirit is working throughout the world to convict people of "sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement" (John 16:8). God is at work in the world today showing people the truth and seriousness of their rejection of Him ("sin"), the reality that Jesus offers us a new, restored life with God ("righteousness") and that the result of continuing to reject Jesus is "judgement".

God wants us to know Him and to belong to Him again. And all three Persons of God are united in this work. The Father sent the Son to die for our sin and offer us new life; the Son sent the Spirit to help us understand what God has done for us and to keep us trusting Him.



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