



Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

Adopted from *The Lutheran Service Book* (p. 294)

June 4, 2023 A.D.

Trinity Sunday

This brief service is intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families. When more than one person is present, the Psalm and other parts of the service may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. The Creed and Prayers that are in bold type are to be said by all.

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

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

(From a Liturgical Text and Psalm 16)

P Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.

C **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.

For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website (www.bethanycr.org) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Nicene Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....

Scripture Lesson

(Matthew 28:16-20)

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."

Sermon – ✠ *The Trinity* ✠ *(A copy is included at the end of this service.)*

Athanasian Creed

Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

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

And the catholic faith is this,

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

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

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

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

the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

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

the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

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

just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

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

and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

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

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

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

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

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.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

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

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

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

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; 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.

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

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

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.

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:

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

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

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

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

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

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,
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.

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

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

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

The Lord's Prayer



**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 forever and
ever. Amen.**

Bethany's Prayer List

Thanksgiving

- New Bethany members

Entrusting into God's Care

- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Those suffering after storms and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Nancy (sister of Julie Elias) - hospitalization after fall
- Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery
- Lucas McCarley - recovering after surgery
- Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - recovering after hospitalization
- Larry Easler - recovering after fall at Hiawatha Care Center
- Tom Stock - health issues
- Lee Rathje - recovering after surgery
- Dave Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Janelle Dunbar - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment

- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Chuck Stoelting - Garnet Place

Mourning, friends and family of

- Ivan Grimm (brother of Brenda Heims)
- Norma Sirotiak - died 5/26
- Stephen Stepanek - died 5/20
- Wayne Schilling - died 5/19

Serving Our Country

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - serving IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - serving IA Army National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison - (son of Siecks) - US Army, deployed to Poland

Collect of the Day

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.

Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Together we pray... **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

This weekend the Church celebrates Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday refers, of course, to God - the one true God in three distinct persons. In our Gospel lesson we may find that these three persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You probably have noticed that we talk about and call each of these three distinct persons “God”. We are correct to do so, yet we cannot say there are three Gods, but only one. If this sounds confusing, well you’re not alone. Ever since Christ walked down the dusty roads of Holy Land, people have been confused and misled concerning the nature of the Triune God. To help with this confusion, God has given us His Word, the Bible. Yet as we all know, the Word of God has been misinterpreted by many. And so, God’s Church, guided by His Word and Spirit have written what we know as the three universal creeds. You know them as the Apostles’ which we recite on Sundays when there is no Holy Communion. The Nicene Creed which we say on Sundays when we do have communion. And finally, the Athanasian Creed which we say on the fifth Sunday of a month and on Trinity Sunday.

Now the Athanasian Creed, like the Nicene and to some extent the Apostles’, was written to clearly define what the Bible teaches, and therefore what those who follow Christ believe. This is important, not so that Christians can win arguments, or have some sort of secret knowledge of God that no one else has. But this is important because it shows us who God really is and what He has really done in our lives.

Imagine, if you will, a father with a two year old son who is called off to a foreign land to fight for his country. He is gone for two or three years, but he doesn’t forget about his family. Just the opposite, he writes them almost every day and any money he makes he doesn’t spend on himself, but send it immediately to his wife and son. In addition to the letters and emails, he sends his family pictures of all that he is doing overseas, all that he is doing for them. And then finally, the day arrives for them to go home.

So, his family waits for him at the airport, and they see the plane land and pull up to the gate. The father is in his dress uniform, anxiously waiting to see his family. And as he steps off the plane with his fellow soldiers, he sees his them and they begin to run towards him. It has been so long since they’ve seen each other that he can’t wait to be with them. It has been so long that his family doesn’t recognize him. Instead of jumping into his arms, they run by him and embrace another soldier whom they mistake for him. You see his wife and child never opened the letters that he sent to them. They took the money he sent, but never looked at the pictures. You see if they had, they would have known that he was wounded in battle. They would have known that now his face was deeply scarred. And so, his family ran to someone who they thought was their husband and father. Someone they had created in their own mind, not using the information given to them. Can you imagine how the father felt? The anguish to see the people whom he loved so much, run right by him and into the arms of another? Can you imagine the hurt and disappointment?

You can, if you think of how people today run to other Gods. When Jesus tells us in our Gospel lesson to go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, He is telling us that God is Triune. And this Triune God is the God of all people, of all nations. And yet people have in their own minds what God should be, and so they run right by the Triune God and into the arms of another. We Christians confess the Trinity however, and in doing so we worship God. Because we are humbling ourselves and acknowledging that God is

God. He is greater than we, and therefore we will submit to His will, and not try to force our own on him.

We are able to do this because God, like the Father sent off to war, has written us letters telling us who He is. These letters are the Word of God or the Bible. Like the soldier, our Father in Heaven has sent us pictures of what He has done. In Genesis we see the Father creating the Universe. In the Gospels we see the Son being born of the virgin. In Acts we see the Spirit sanctifying the Church. In the Word with the eyes of Faith we see God and His work, and we recognize Him. Our Gospel lesson tells us this morning that when the disciples saw Jesus, they worshipped Him. The same thing happens today. When people see God as He truly is, when they see His love for them, they worship Him.

The problem is today many people don't see Jesus as He truly is. Today people attack the identity of Christ, whether it be in the media in the halls of academia. Perhaps even in your own families or homes you have created in your own mind who Christ is to be. But when we listen to God tell us who Jesus really is, and not make Him up in our minds, we see the wounded soldier. We see Jesus being born a man so that He could die for all men. We see Him suffering God's rejection so that we would be accepted before His throne.

Trinity Sunday is not about some doctrine of the Church or some ancient arguments of theologians. But rather it is an encounter with God himself. Remembering the Trinity is to remember who God is and our relationship with Him. When we say the Athanasian Creed we not only say we believe what the Bible teaches us, but we also worship God, acknowledging that He is has made us, that He has saved us, and that He strengthens us to live our lives as Christians. We are not like the family that runs by their husband and father. Rather confessing the One True God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are brought into the loving family of our Father in Heaven, through the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

