

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 1 - Trinity Sunday - May 30, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #193 - "Come, Now, Almighty King"

**Come, now, almighty King;
Help us your name to sing;
Help us to praise.
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, now, incarnate Word;
Put on your mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and your people bless,
And give your Word success;
Grant us your righteousness,
Savior and Friend.**

**Come, holy Comforter;
Your sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.
Your sev'nfold gifts impart;
Now rule in ev'ry heart;
Never from us depart,
Spirit of Pow'r.**

**To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Forevermore!
His sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see**

**And to eternity
Love and adore.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God. The Lord is one! Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words that I am commanding you today are to be on your heart. Teach them diligently to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as a sign on your wrists, and they will serve as symbols on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. (EHV)

Psalm 150

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Praise God in his sanctu'ary;
Praise him in his mighty 'heavens.**

**Praise him for his acts of 'power;
Praise him for his surpassing 'greatness.**

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Praise him with the sounding of the ‘trumpet,
Praise him with the ‘harp and lyre,**

**Praise him with tambourine and ‘dancing,
Praise him with ‘strings and flute,**

**Praise him with the clash of ‘cymbals,
Praise him with resounding ‘cymbals.**

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Let everything that has breath ‘praise the LORD.
Praise ‘the LORD.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,
As it was in the be’gining,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Second Lesson: Romans 8:14-17

Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, we are also heirs - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.” Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered,

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus. “You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #194 - “*Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices*”

**Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,**

What great things God has done for me.

**Dear Father, endless praise I render
For soul and body, nobly joined;
I praise you Guardian kind and tender,
For all the daily joys I find
So richly spread on ev'ry side
And freely for my use supplied**

**I praise you, Savior, whose compassion
Has brought you down to ransom me,
Your pitying heart sought my salvation;
You bore the cross triumphantly,
Brought me from bondage full release,
Made me your own, and gave me peace.**

**Glory and praise, still onward reaching,
Be yours, O Spirit of all grace,
Whose holy pow'r and faithful teaching
Give me among your saints a place.
Whatever good by me is done
Is worked by grace divine alone.**

**Shall I not then be filled with gladness?
Shall I not praise you evermore
And triumph over fear and sadness,
Although my up of woe runs o'er?
Though heav'n and earth shall disappear,
Your endless love is ever near.**

**The Sermon: Deuteronomy 6:4-9
"Three Ways To Worship The Trinity"**

Every year we celebrate **Trinity** Sunday. It always falls on the First Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday is the day which concludes the **festival** portion of the Church year, and leads us into that long stretch of "Sundays after Pentecost," which covers about **half** of the year. Celebrating Trinity Sunday is an **old** tradition. A **few** celebrated it as early as the year 1305, but it wasn't **universally** observed until 1334. At that time, the Christians felt it was both wise and beneficial to set

aside one special Sunday on which we **emphasize** what the **Triune God** has done in the **past**; and **still** does - both **for** us, as well as **in** us.

Therefore, again today we will follow this 687 year old custom, as we look at **Three Ways To Worship The Trinity**. Our text today begins with a passage which is known as “The Great **Shema**” - “*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God. The Lord is **one**.*” The Great Shema is still used by the Jews **today**, as a confessional statement of God’s **unity**. Especially in the original Hebrew language, the word “**one**” resounds with a definite **finality** - “*Shema Israel, Adonai Eloh8nu, Adonai **exhad!***” - **one** - God is **one!** He is not **divisible** into separate **forces**, as the **pagans** try to do with Him - designating a separate **sun** god, and **rain** god, and **fire** god, and all the **others**. But rather, God is **one** - the Source of **all** natural phenomena. The heathen **idols** are mere **copies** - counterfeits - and not very **good** ones at that.

Our text shows us very clearly that God is **one** - but interestingly enough, it **also** shows us that He is **three**. Didn’t that first sentence sound a little **repetitious** to you? Why didn’t Moses simply write, “*The LORD is one,*” or “*Our God is one?*” I don’t believe God uses a lot of extra words in His Bible just to **impress** us, or to fill up a lot of **space** on a page. I believe that each and every word has **significance** and **meaning**. This opening passage in our text gives us a good **example** of that. It’s a perfect statement for the doctrine of the **Trinity** - the **tri-unity** - when it says, “*The LORD - is our God - the LORD - is one.*” Only in **theology** can you get away with the statement that **one** plus **one** plus **one** equals **one**. Several **other** triple statements follow this **first** one, and we will use **one** of them as the outline for today’s sermon. We may worship God in **three** ways; first of all as we let His commandments live in **our** hearts - secondly, as we teach them to our **children** - and thirdly, as we show them to **others** by our example.

The first way of worshiping God is a **prerequisite** for the others. “*Love the LORD **your** God with all **your** heart and with all **your** soul and with all **your** might. These words that I am commanding **you** today are to be on **your** heart.*” It all starts right here with **you** and **me**, and our **personal** faith. God Himself has **given** us that faith, and He wants it to be **strong**. Yet, so often our faith is **weak** - **not** strong. Even though we are the people whom God provides with **strength** for our faith in His Word and Sacraments; we are the **same** people who **eat** too much, and **drink** too much, and **smoke** too much, and **work** too much, and **play** too much. We go **against** God’s commandments every day, even though we **know** that God has given those commandments to us for our **safety** and **benefit**. Yet, in spite

of all our weaknesses and shortcomings, God still **loves** us, and He gives us every reason to **respond** to Him with **our** love.

In the Old Testament God tried again and again to get that loving **response** from the **Israelites**. He **chose** them to be His special people - He **delivered** them out of bondage in Egypt - He **provided** them with food, and water, and clothing for 40 years in the wilderness - and He even drove the other nations **out** of the Promised Land, and **gave** it to the Israelites as their **inheritance**. But the desired **response** was hardly **ever** there - and even when it **was**, it was still only a half-hearted love toward God's commands.

Unfortunately, **we're** not much **different**. God has done just as much for **us** as He did for the **Israelites** - if not **more**. As Jesus Himself told Nicodemus in today's Gospel, "*God so loved the **world** that He gave His only-begotten **Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall **not perish** but have **eternal life**.*" And all God wants **us** to do to **thank** Him for this wonderful gift of His Son, is to **love** Him - to love Him with **untainted** sincerity - to love Him with **all** our **heart**. He wants us to love Him without any **reservations** - to love Him with **all** our **soul**. And He wants us to love Him using **everything** we can muster - to love Him with **all** our **might**. But we **don't** - because we **can't**.

And yet, it's not as if we don't love God **at all**. We **do** - we love Him **very** much. That should be **obvious**. If we **didn't** love God we wouldn't even **be** here to **worship** Him. We wouldn't **bother** to attend the Lord's **Supper**. We wouldn't invest **any** time in reading and studying His **Word**. We wouldn't bring our **children** to be **baptized** into His kingdom. And we certainly wouldn't go through all the **expense** involved in teaching our children about Jesus through our system of Lutheran **schools**. But the Triune God **is** important to us, and we **want** Him to be important to our **children** too. Needless to say, that's also what God **Himself** wants. He says, "*Teach them (God's commandments) **diligently** to your **children**, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.*"

What does it **mean** to teach our children **diligently**? It **doesn't** mean just teaching them a little bit here and there. After all, what does it mean if you are a diligent **golfer**, or a diligent **bowler**, or a diligent **hunter**, or a diligent **fisherman**? You don't just do it once in a while, or here and there - but rather, you go **all out** for it, and you do **everything** you can to be **involved** as **often** as you can. That's what God means when He says, "Teach my commandments **diligently** to your children."

God's commandments should leave an **impression** on our **children**. Anyone who's ever helped make sugar cookies knows what an **impression** is. When you push the cookie cutter down into the soft dough, it leaves a **picture** - an **impression** - and it doesn't **go away**! That **impression** gets baked right into the cookie! **Children** are very much like soft dough - they are **impressionable**. **Something** is going to leave that deep impression on them, and **God** wants it to be His **commandments**. However, if we don't take the time to be **at home** with our children, and to **talk** about God's commandments with them - something **else** might leave its impression on them **first**. If that should happen - and it often **does** - then our only hope is that this **bad** impression hasn't yet been **baked in**. Then we would still be able to **reshape** the dough, and start all over again from scratch. However, bear in mind that once the dough has been **baked**, it becomes **inflexible**, and then if you try to **reshape** it, it **crumbles**.

And finally, God would also have us take His commandments **beyond** the borders of our family. Our text concludes, "*Tie them as a sign on your **wrists**, and they will serve as symbols on your **forehead**. Write them on the **doorposts** of your houses and on your **gates**.*" The Jews interpreted those words very **literally**, and as a result, they developed the practice of wearing **phylacteries**. A phylactery is made up of Bible passages rolled up, and placed into a tiny box, which is then tied onto the back of the **hand**, or on the **arm**, or on the **forehead**. This was usually done during the time of the morning **prayers**, and served as a **reminder** of God's love, and promises, and commands - sort of like when you tie a **string** around your finger in order to help you **remember** something.

But actually, God had something a little less **literal** in mind with these words. He simply wanted us to **remember** His love, and promises, and commands, so that these things would **show** in our **lives**. Notice how God wanted His commandments to **emanate out** from the individual. He told them to tie them on their **wrists** and **forehead**, on the **doorposts** of their houses, and even on their **gates** - probably the **city** gates. In other words, they were to let **everybody** know that they were **believers**. And that's what **we're** to do as well - let **everybody** know that you are a **Christian**. **Live** your faith in your **home**, in your **neighborhood**, in your **town**, and everywhere **else** as well.

That's what we're doing **right now**, as we worship the Triune God. That's what we're doing every time we receive the Lord's **Supper**. **Whenever** we gather together as a group of Christians, we are showing everyone around us that Christians can have a **good time** by **following** God's Commandments, rather than

by **breaking** them. Christians can **enjoy** life **without** arguing, and fighting, and over-indulging. And hopefully, that attitude stays with us at **all** times. Always keep God's commandments in mind, so that **whatever** we do, it may be done to God's glory. Practice those **Three Ways To Worship The Trinity** - keep His commandments in **your** heart, teach them to your **children**, and show them to **others** by your example in society. Amen.

Prayers:

O almighty and everlasting **Triune** God - God the Father who **made** us, God the Son who **redeemed** us, and God the Holy Spirit who **regenerated** us - we thank You that You have **revealed** Yourself to us in Your holy Word as the **one and only true and living** God. Without this revelation of Yourself, we would be **ignorant** of You, and would become guilty of worshiping **false** gods. Help us, like Nicodemus of old, to diligently seek the **truth**, that we may know more about **You**, Your **will**, and Your marvelous **dealings** with mankind. Amen.

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.**

Hymn #195 - "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

**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!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.**

**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 pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**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!**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be 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.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #250 - "From All that Dwell below the Skies"

**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
Eternal is your glorious Word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**