

The Holy Trinity ~ First Sunday after Pentecost

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

May 30, 2021

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When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Gathering

Greeting and Announcements ~ Today we welcome **Rev. Karen Parsh**, as our presiding minister.

Prelude ~ Sheryl Williams

Please Stand

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ELW 413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty v.1,4

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Greeting

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.

Kyrie ELW Setting 3

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise *All sing the refrain Women verses 1 & 3; Men verses 2 & 4*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

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

Psalm: 29

Tone 1

¹Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name; worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees; the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice | of the Lord; bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹ **O Lord, give strength | to your people; give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; God's glory fills the whole earth. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

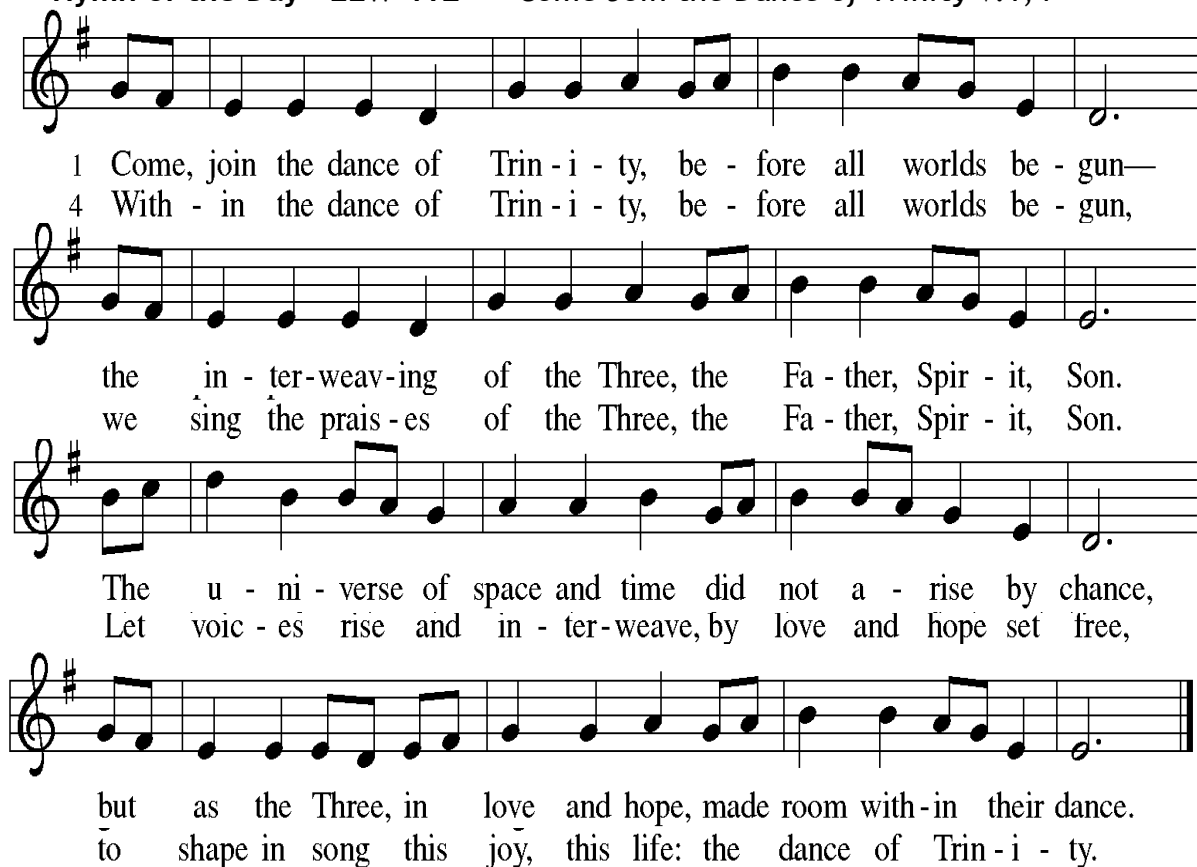
¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

Please be seated

Sermon ~ Rev. Karen Parsh

Hymn of the Day ELW 412 Come Join the Dance of Trinity v.1,4



1 Come, join the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
 4 With - in the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,
 the in - ter-weav-ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
 The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,
 but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with-in their dance.
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin-i - ty.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for nations in the Middle East. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this worshiping community Abiding Hope in Erie, Pennsylvania that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

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

Please be seated

An Offering Moment

At this time, the offering would normally be received - and your gifts presented. Let's take a moment now to reflect on God's gracious abundance of steadfast love and on how our Creator God's hands open wide to satisfy the desire of every living creature. With our offering gifts of time, talent, and financial resources, we give thanks for all this and the saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. With joy and gladness, we offer these gifts either in the offering plate, online, or by mail to the church office. By offering our hands, hearts, and these gifts, we share in God's good work through the mission and ministry of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church who thanks you for your gifts.

Please stand

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

Please hold the communion elements in your hands as we give thanks and remember:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine; here is Jesus. Take and eat his body and blood. They are given for you. We eat and drink together.

For our non-communing children and adults, receive this blessing: Remember you are a baptized child of God. May Jesus be with you now and forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

**As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world
with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

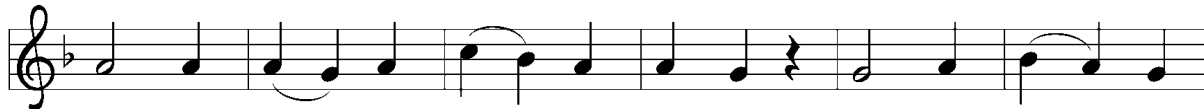
Sending Hymn ELW 414 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* v.1,4



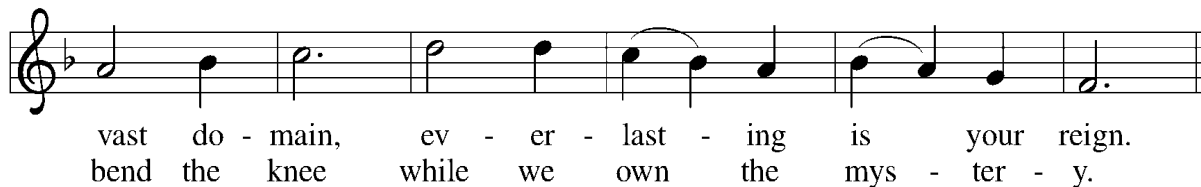
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Parish Notes ~ May 30, 2021

Please pray for:

Cheryl, Bob and family, Gene, Nadine, John Holmberg, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Joe Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess.
Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30. On other days, you may contact our council president Andy Saska at avsaska@roadrunner.com or 814-450-5620.

Prayer Requests: Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.
Phone: 814-866-6552, E-Mail: cew6@psu.edu.

On June 1, 2021, we welcome our new interim pastor, the Rev. Karen Parsh. She is scheduled to work part-time, with 20 hours per week. Part of her task will be to guide us during this time of transition as we discern our call to mission and ministry. Her contact information is:
Rev. Karen Parsh, 975 Maple Lane, Meadville, PA.16335 Ph: 814-881-3266

Finances at AHLC

\$ 8,212 current offerings received in April

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

Year-to-Date (as of the end of April)

\$47,173 offerings received

\$48,604 needed for budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

In-person Sunday worship services. We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home. We will observe these guidelines when in the building to keep everyone safe.

- There will be only one service at 9:30 AM on Sundays.
- We will continue to live-stream on Facebook, then post the service to our web page.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
 - Pews will be taped off.
 - Our seating arrangement will reflect social distancing.
 - Only families can sit together. There is a limit of approximately 25 people (depending on the number of families sitting together)
- We will *not* be sharing the peace.
- We will only be singing 2 verses of a song.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

Athanasian Creed (Quicumque Vult)

Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) Augsburg Fortress

Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another. But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.

Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit. The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite. Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit: And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal; as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited. Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit:

And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty. Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God: And yet there are not three gods, but one God. Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord: And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord. As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son. Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus became flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father, and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother— existing fully as God, and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body; equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ. He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity. He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures. For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man.

He suffered death for our salvation. He descended into hell and rose again from the dead. 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.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, those who have done evil will enter eternal fire. This is the catholic faith. One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.