Trinity Sunday Adaptive Worship Service June 7, 2020





1812 North Highland Avenue Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: GraceCLW.com

ADAPTIVE SERVICE OF THE WORD

GREETING

Worship Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST READING

Introduction to the Lesson: Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Reader: [Paul writes:] 11 And now, my friends, good-bye! Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with the kiss of peace. All of God's people send you their greetings. 13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

After the reading...

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

Introduction to the Gospel: After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 28th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Worship Leader: 16 The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. 18 Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 20 and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

After the reading...

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord. Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

Triune God, Triune Church

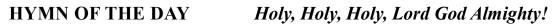
On this Trinity Sunday, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples. They are words of sending, command, and blessing. They include the great promise, comfort, and empowerment: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

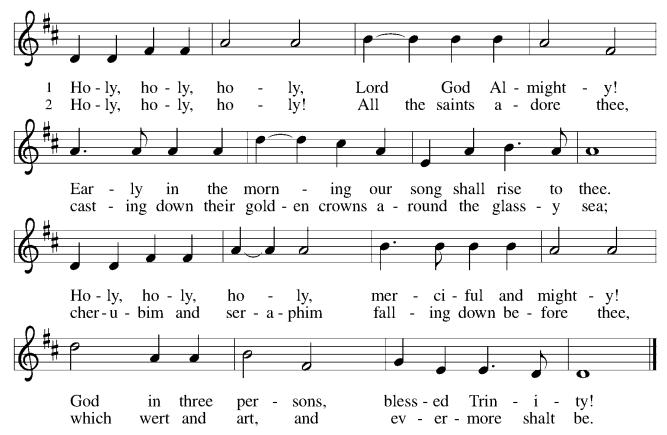
The rest of Jesus' message is all about what happens *until* the end of the age. In the meantime, the church is active in sharing the good news, baptizing, and teaching the way of Jesus. This is done at Jesus' command and under his authority with people of all nations. The word "nations" doesn't quite capture the breadth of what Jesus means. The actual term in Greek is more expansive, including all ethnicities and cultures. Instead of a blank, monochromatic sheet of paper, the church is a colorful patchwork quilt of people pieced together, stitched together, and united in the love of Christ.

Today we celebrate that we know God as Trinity. The Trinity serves as a model for the life of the church: God is not one-dimensional, but multifaceted. The Trinity is not monochromatic, but rather a swirling, colorful dance. There is no division in the Trinity, but an indwelling of the Spirit, the gentle authority of Christ, and the blessing of the Father.

In a world that is often polarized and divided, and in which marginalized groups face persecution and strife, we are called as followers of Christ to live beyond borders and division. The church is to be a gathering of peoples made up of every type of human distinction. By gathering all varieties of people into Christ, we live into the embodied reality of our triune God. May we be emboldened to do so, knowing that we are accompanied and empowered by our Savior "to the end of the age."

SERMON





Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

Prayer Leader: God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice in often ignored or neglected communities, especially the African-American community. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need, *especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara

Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Eliezar Granados, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, the family and friends of Rose Corbett, John David Cox and George Floyd, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (especially the those impacted by the COVID -19 outbreak, those in harms way in the civil unrest throughout the nation, those in harm's way while serving in the military, as first responders, or in the medical field, those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children, and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts). Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation, especially in this time of unrest. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Worship Leader: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

OFFERING

Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at GraceCLW.com (look for the "Donate" button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.

OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

Congregation: 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

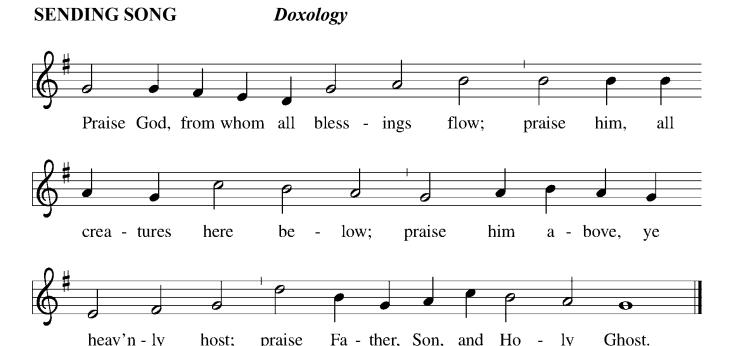
Worship Leader: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

Worship Leader: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now our service of worship has ended, and our service to the world begins! Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Congregation: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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