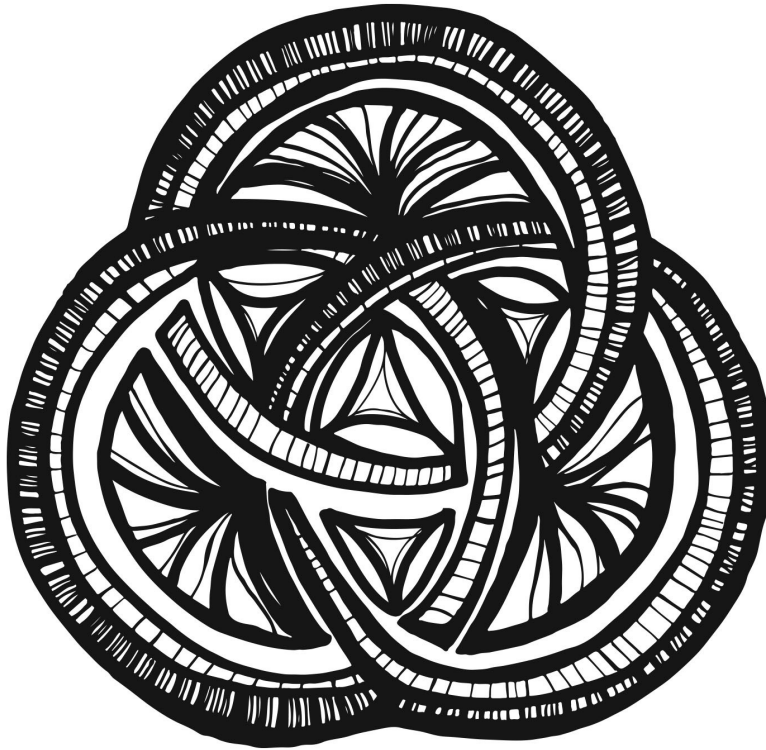


# *Trinity Sunday*

## *June 4, 2023*



1812 North Highland Avenue

Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

727-446-5026

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Some practical things for you to know:

**Children:** All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

**Restrooms** are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

**Holy Communion:** All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

## THE ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*We stand as we are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Merciful God,

**Congregation: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Pastor: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!*

ELW 413 vs. 1-3

## GREETING

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

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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

*We sit.*

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 1:1--2:4a**

Page 1

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and

multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Page 944

*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.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

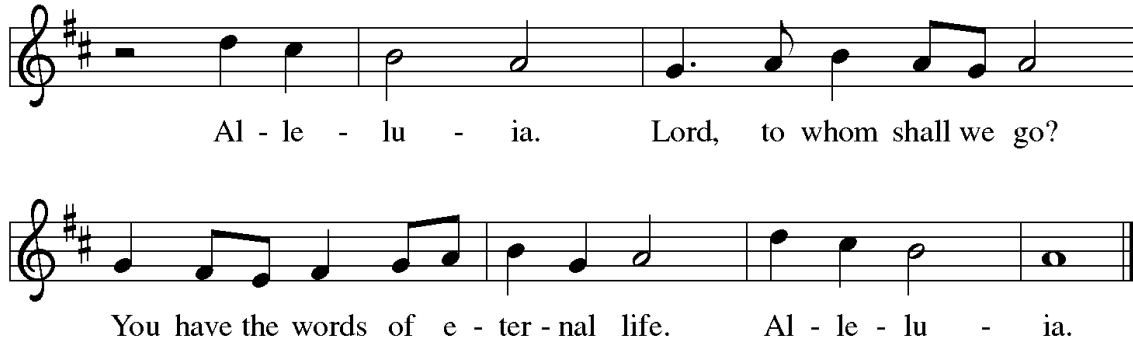
<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## ALLELUIA VERSE



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:16-20**

Page 812

*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.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 20th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*After the reading...*

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We Sit*

## SERMON

*We Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

ELW 756

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

## For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*We Sit*

## PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends either*    “Lord, in your mercy,”    and we respond    **“Hear our prayer.”**  
    OR    “Hear us, O Lord”    and we respond    **“Your mercy is great.”**

## OFFERING

## *We Stand*

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord . **Congregation: Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

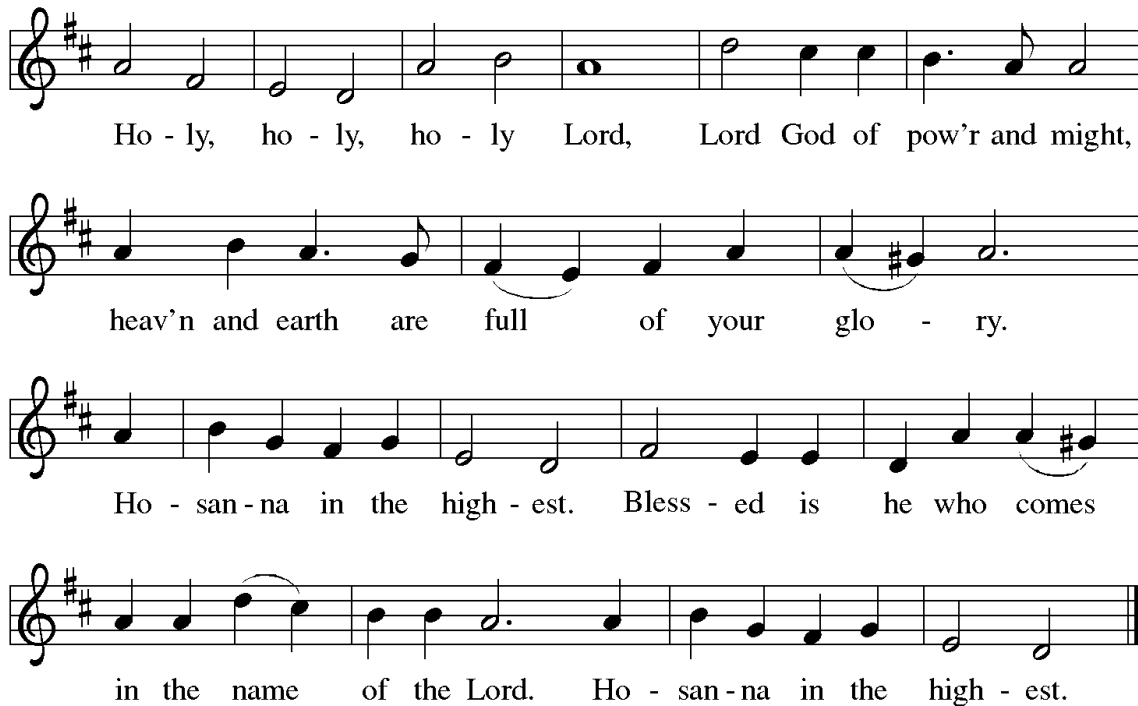
**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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:

**Congregation: 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.

**Congregation: 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.

**Congregation: 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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: 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.**

*We Sit*

### **SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING**

*After all have receive Communion, we stand.*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and

strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## BLESSING

Pastor: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW 543

## SHARING OF PEACE & DISMISSAL

Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Share the harvest!

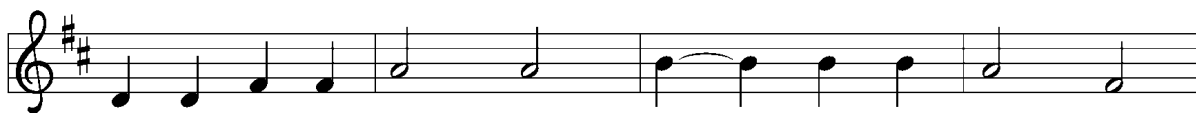
**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Light refreshments are served after the church service on the front porch just to the left as you exit. Please come join us for cookies and conversation.*

## POSTLUDE

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## Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.

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

## Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.  
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
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