

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving us today :

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Trinity Sunday

May 18, 2008

Pre-service Meditation

Psalm 96 p144

- THE INTRODUCTION -

An introduction to the thought for the Sunday, focusing on the sermon text for today

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

- TODAY'S MESSAGE FROM OUR GOD -

Theme:

"In the Presence of True Greatness"

Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

- PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP -

P: Thus says the Lord: "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds." (Jer. 17:9-10)

C: "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

And who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not lifted up His soul to falsehood,
and has not sworn deceitfully." (Ps. 24:3,4)

♪ *Father of heaven, whose love profound
A ransom for our souls hath found,
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy pardoning love extend.*

P: O Father, we enter Your holy place to worship You. However, we are sinners. How then will You accept our worship and bless us for the coming week? It is an act of grace that we seek from You. Cleanse us from our sins for Jesus' sake, so that with pure hearts and clean lips we can sing Your praises.

♪ *Almighty Son, Incarnate Word,
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy saving grace extend.*

ALL: O Lord, You have searched me and known me. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have seen the evil that I have done and the good that I left undone.

Clinging to the cross of Jesus Christ, I appeal to You for mercy. Cleanse me in Jesus' blood. Purify my mind from every evil thought, my lips from every evil word, my hands from every evil deed.

Renew my heart by the working of Your Holy Spirit so that I may present my body as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to You, which is my spiritual service of worship.

♪ *Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
The soul is raised from sin and death,
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy quickening power extend.*

P: Be of good cheer, children of God, for our Father is forever merciful. The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all our sins, for Christ loves us and gave Himself up for us, that He might sanctify and cleanse us. We are now holy and blameless before God and our worship is pleasing to Him.

♪ *Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
Grace, pardon, life, to us extend. Amen (TLH 242)*

Opening Hymn - 239

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

- OUR DIRECTION FROM GOD -

(A petition to God for help followed by the Scripture readings.)

P: Let us pray - Almighty and everlasting God, since You have given us, Your servants, grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of true faith, and to worship the true Unity in the power of Your divine majesty, keep us also steadfast in this true faith and worship, and defend us ever from all our adversaries; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever

ALL: ♪ "A- - - men"

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity

C: Let us give glory to Him

because He has shown His mercy to us.

P: Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones,

C: Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

P: Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;

C: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

P: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

C: The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

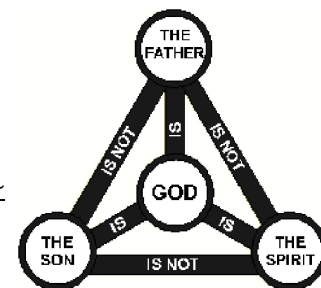
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~ OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH ~

The Athanasian Creed



Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith.

Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.

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

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.

And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal.

As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.

And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord,

So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

Scripture Readings

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” - John 20:31

New Testament Lesson: Romans 11:33-36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

P: Alleluia, Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory. Alleluia! (Is. 6:3b)

ALL: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Athanasian Creed, cont. -

The Father is made of none: neither created nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten.

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

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

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

But the whole three Persons are coeternal together, and coequal: so that in all things, as is aforesaid,

the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.

He, therefore, that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-15 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Athanasian Creed, conclusion -

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right faith is, that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

God of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world;

Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood;

Who, although He be God and Man, yet He is not two, but one Christ:

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking the manhood into God;

One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by unity of Person.

For as the reasonable 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; He ascended into heaven; He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies, and shall give an account of their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire.

This is the catholic faith; which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.

Hymn 249

“Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old”

Isaiah 6:1-8
IN THE PRESENCE OF TRUE GREATNESS

- *The reaction of the angels*
- *The reaction of the sinner*
- *The reaction of the redeemed*

~ The Offertory ~

♪ *Let men with their united voice*

Adore the eternal God

And spread His honors and their joys

Through nations far abroad.

Let faith and love and duty join

One grateful song to raise;

Let saints in earth and heaven combine

In harmony and praise. Amen. (TLH 248:4-5)

~ *Offering of Thankful Hearts* ~ *Prayers and Lord's Prayer* ~

Hymn 246

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

The Benediction

Closing Hymn 240:4

“Father Most Holy, Merciful, and Tender”

WELCOME TO YOU ALL! We rejoice at the opportunity to share with you the hope that is within us. We pray that you might ever desire to learn more about the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our church, our teachings, or today's service please speak with the pastor. We hope you may be able to join us again! We ask that our visitors record their visit by signing our guest register.