

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Aitkin, Minnesota
June 12, 2022
Trinity Sunday
ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead 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.**

Introit

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his
mer- | cy to us.

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be |
shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- |
joices;*

my flesh also | dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,*

or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.

You make known to me the | path of life;*

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right
hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his
mer- | cy to us.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us
grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal
Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to
worship the Unity in the power of the Divine
Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend
us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

“To you, O men, I call,

and my cry is to the children of man. . . .

“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,

the first of his acts of old.

Ages ago I was set up,

at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,

when there were no springs abounding with

water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,

before the hills, I was brought forth,

before he had made the earth with its fields,

or the first of the dust of the world.

When he established the heavens, I was there;

when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above,

when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters might not transgress his

command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master workman,
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.’

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 8:48–59

The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my

own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Text – John 16::12-15

Theme – Have We Forgotten God?

When the Nobel Prize winning writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn was boy growing up in Russia, he heard some older folks talking about why things were going so badly for their country. One of them offered this as an explanation: **“Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.”**

Solzhenitsyn spent fifty years of his life studying the history of Russia, reading hundreds of books and writing many books himself. At one point, he wrote, **“If I were asked to formulate ... the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately to repeat ‘Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.’”**

It’s easy for us Americans to agree with his assessment. Communist Russia had forgotten God. Atheism was the official teaching of the state. “There is no god,” the people were told. “Religion is the opiate of the masses,” the people were told or, in other words, religion was a way of keeping the underprivileged in

check. That's what the people were taught; that's what many of them believed. Is it any wonder that the people of that nation suffered so? Is it any wonder that the people of that nation invaded Ukraine and other independent nations? It is all because **"Men have forgotten God."**

An important question we should consider is this: "Have the people of our nation forgotten God?" I think many have. I am not just talking about the attempts of some to remove the words "under God" from the pledge of allegiance. That's just one indication that **"Men have forgotten God."**

Listen to the way people talk. Some take the name of the Lord, God in vain – kids and adults. We hear it on TV; we hear it out on the street. We might even hear it in our own homes. Besides that, though, we also hear others professing their faith in other gods besides the one true God, as revealed in the Old and New Testaments. What can we say about all that? **"Men have forgotten God."**

Look at what people do. What did I read somewhere? Pornography is one of the biggest of all money-making businesses on the internet. But you don't have to go on-line to see pornographic images or hear pornographic words, it's on network and cable TV. Is it any wonder that you have young men and women who are guilty of all manner of sexual sins? It is all because that's what they have grown up with because **"Men have forgotten God."**

What about you and me? **Have we forgotten God?** If we take an honest look at our thoughts, words,

and actions, there are times when we must admit **“we have forgotten God.”** It is because we are affected by the world around us. We hear the message proclaimed by the words and deeds of our neighbors and are encouraged to **forget God.**

The encouragement to **forget God** is out there. That’s why we need to keep on hearing a different message of encouragement. We need to counteract the message of the world with the message of the Word. That’s what Jesus is talking about in our text when He says, **“when ... the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.”**

Truth – there is the truth about who God is. On this Trinity Sunday, [with the use of Athanasian Creed,] we are reminded of the truth that the only One True God is the Triune God – Three persons, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the **“Trinity in Unity.”** That’s the truth about who God is.

There is another truth which the Holy Spirit guides us to and that is the truth about what God has done. Our Epistle Lesson for today points to that truth. It begins, **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.”**

In other words, people like us who, at times, have forgotten God; people like us who because we have forgotten God deserve to have things go badly for us, now and forever, are **“justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Even though sinful **people had forgotten God**, God didn't forget them. He sent His One and Only Son, who is as we confessed earlier, "**Perfect God and perfect Man**," to "**suffer... for our salvation.**" He suffered and died for us and because He did we have "**access [to God] by faith.**"

That's God's message of encouragement for all of us sinners. It's a message for us to share with a world full of people who have forgotten God. With the Spirit's help we will bring God's message of encouragement to others so that they know who God is and what He has done. AMEN

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Blessed Father, from You comes all that is, and we are forever indebted to Your grace for the gift of life. Receive this day our special thanks for the redemption You have provided in Jesus Christ, Your Son, and for the work of the Spirit in bringing us to know You by faith and to be adopted as Your children by Baptism into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed Father, You desire not the death of the sinner but that all may live. Grant Your Holy Spirit, that hearing Your Word all people may be brought to repentance and may confess with us their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Blessed Father, You have revealed Yourself to us in Christ, that we may know You by faith and confess

You before the world. Give us Your Spirit, that all churches may confess truly and faithfully Your Word and live in harmony of doctrine and life, in anticipation of that day when we shall kneel together at Your altar.

Blessed Father, You have established marriage and sanctified the home to be a place of blessing and love. Give to parent and child the courage to love as You have loved us. Unite them in their common life by Your Spirit to know Jesus and serve Him. Bless the single with chastity, comfort the widowed, protect the orphan and defend the helpless.

Blessed Father, You guard Your world as Your own possession and have established governments and leaders to serve Your purpose. Bless our president, our governor, and all elected and appointed officials, that in their stewardship of the nation and state they may be faithful and serve honorably for our benefit.

Blessed Father, You have suffered fully the cost of love through Your Son. Give healing and peace to all the afflicted, the grieving and the dying [*especially those who have requested our prayers, including _____ and those we name in our hearts (brief silence)*]. Give them all that is needful, that they may endure their illness confident of Your presence. Supply them with grace sufficient for their every need.

Blessed Father, Your Son was the voice that spoke all things into existence, and Your grace still preserves all that You have made. You did not abandon Your people when they abandoned You, but You have delivered us by the blood of Christ. Grant us Your Spirit, that we may know Your Word and keep it in faith through all the days

of our earthly pilgrimage until we are joined with faithful Abraham, with patriarch, prophet, apostle and evangelist, in Your presence forevermore; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.**

Benediction

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

CAmen

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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