

June 7, 2020 ~ Trinity Sunday

*Welcome to our service of Holy Eucharist. All are welcome, we are glad that you are here. The people are invited to join in everything that is in **BOLD** type, while the Celebrant will speak the plain type.*

Greeting

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

There is one body and one Spirit,
there is one hope in God's call to us;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Holy God,
the earth is full of your love.
May we your children, born of the Spirit,
so bear witness to your Son Jesus Christ,
that all the world may believe
and have eternal life through him,
who with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The people sit.

First Reading: A Reading from Genesis 1:1-31

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** 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. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** 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. **8** God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ 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." ²¹ 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. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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."

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

²⁸ 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." ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

PSALM 8

- 1 O Most High, our Sovereign,*
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 **Out of the mouths of infants and children***
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,*
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 **When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,***
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What are we that you should be mindful of us?*your children that you should seek us out?
- 6 **You have made us but little lower than the angels;***
you adorn us with glory and honor.
- 7 You give us mastery over the works of your hands,*
you put all things under our feet:
- 8 **All sheep and oxen,***
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,*
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Most High, our Sovereign,*
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,
and to the Spirit, indwelling:*
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be
for ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you O Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Today, Trinity Sunday, we are invited to celebrate and consider that most wonderful mystery, the Trinity. It is a mystery, in a true sense, in that it is genuinely difficult to understand, yet, at the same time, known and lived through faith, worship and actions. In the Trinity we believe that God is one in essence, and distinct in person. Important to understanding this idea is a good translation of the Greek word for person, hypostasis, which means “that which stands on its own” or “individual reality”. So the Trinity is not three persons, as we might consider three people, but rather three realities in one essence. Think, if you like of a chord in music; a chord makes one sound but is made up of several frequencies of sound, or notes, therefore existing as one thing and several things at the same time.

You can be assured that we are in good company as we grapple with our understanding of the Trinity. The Church has been doing this for centuries. As early as the second century, the word Trinity was beginning to be used to describe the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit, and by 325, amid simmering controversy, Constantine convened a council of bishops in Nicaea to address the matter. What emerged would later become the Nicene Creed which is of course our well-loved, and often proclaimed, decree of belief in the Trinity.

The fact that we, to this day, not only keep endeavoring to comprehend the Trinity, but that it continues to have meaning and message for us, is an enormous part of this great and profound mystery. In today’s Gospel reading, Matthew really reflects the mingling or integration of the Trinity. He relates to us Jesus’ sentiment that “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” All authority, all nations, for all time, what could be more comprehensive and indeed more connecting?

These days, during this stifling pandemic, we have heard over and over that we are, “all in this together” and it has been quite remarkable that, for the most part, people literally all over the world have so impossibly allied themselves to the cause. There is hardly a nation out of step. I would like to suggest, that there has been, in essence, a joining of all people to a greater end, perhaps just as we may consider the joining of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the greatest end representing the mystery of our faith.

And I submit to you that the unifying and complete message of the Trinity brings meaning to us again as we watch in horror the events that have occurred in the United States just this week. People everywhere, indeed far beyond the borders of America, are unified in their protests against racism and injustice. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., the great civil rights leader of the twentieth century, wrote in 1963, while in jail in Birmingham, Alabama:

“In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality.”

What a profound trinitarian message. “All life is interrelated. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.” As Matthew too professed, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all truth and hope is there. Not just a message for these darkish times, but for all time. The Trinity is our connection, to God, to Jesus Christ and to each other, to all people in all ages.

Last week we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and were invited to become witnesses of the Gospel. In Matthew’s great commission, which we read today, the disciples were charged with the task of making “disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” Our witness does not need to be so grand. Even the smallest act can be a witness to our faith. As many of you know, the Safeway at McBride and 8th in New Westminster has joined us as a partner in our Grab & Go Food Hamper Ministry, and I have to tell you that their witness here has been a great gift to us. We email in an order on Monday and it arrives at our door on Thursday like clockwork. As I paid our weekly bill on Thursday, it struck me that their gracious

eagerness to accommodate us is a true and honourable witness. Together we are able live our faith in our community, and make things just a little bit better for our neighbours. The Holy Spirit ever encouraging us to worship God by following the example of his son Jesus Christ, a trinity of blessings. May our faith and actions continue to express the unity and mystery of the Trinity, as God, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, works through us to bring love and peace to all the people of this world. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
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 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People

The people stand.

THE PEACE: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you gracious God . . .

. . .to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are Full of Your Glory,
Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God . . .

. . .Therefore, Creator, according to his command

We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory . . .

And we offer our sacrifice...

...now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all,

you gave us golden fields of wheat,

whose many grains we have gathered

and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion

The Table is ready and all are welcome

The Prayer After Communion

The people stand.

Let us pray:

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
so that we may proclaim your redeeming love
to the world and continue forever
in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Community Announcements

Priest `s Blessing

Sending out

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Thanks be to God.