

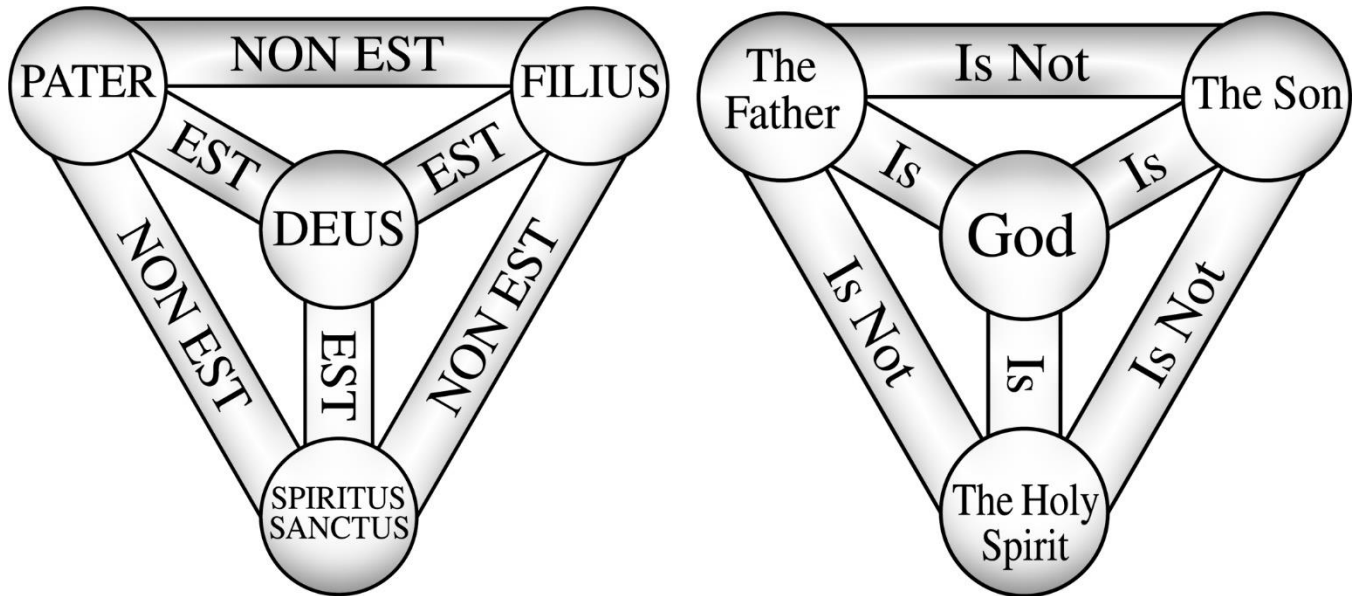


Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of His glory!

+ *Isaiah 6:3b*

THE HOLY TRINITY

May 30, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we do not explain God—we confess Him. We testify to Him who has revealed Himself to us. To the mind in search of reasonable answers, God will always be a question or riddle to be solved. But to the empty heart, the Holy Spirit leads us to see with faith the God whose majesty has worked for our salvation and whose mercy has rescued us sinners from sin and the grave.

Like Nicodemus, we want to know how, yet our Lord gives us not the how, but the Who—not the explanation, but the mystery of mercy big enough to save us. We come today confessing with our forefathers in faith and with all the saints of heaven the Athanasian Creed, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” to the One in Three, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, three Persons, now and forever.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s Email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Holy, Holy, Holy

LSB 507

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,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

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 man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

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,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

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.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.
- Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*
- C** Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 16:8–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mer- | cy to us.

⁸ I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*

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

⁹ **Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;***

my flesh also | dwells secure.

¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,*

or let Your Holy One see cor- | ruption.

¹¹ **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.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



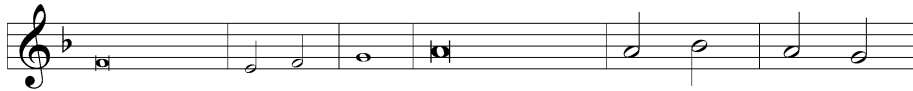
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



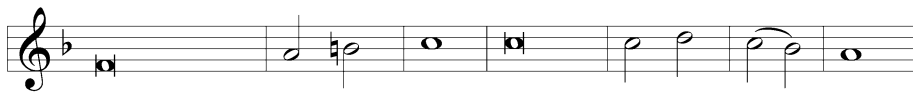
Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

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.

G A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 6:1–8

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter six.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of His glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵And I said:

“Woe is me! For I am lost;
for 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!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said:

“Behold, this has touched your lips;
your guilt is taken away,
and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,*
and His greatness is un- | searchable.
On Your wondrous works, I will | meditate,*
and I will declare Your | greatness.

SECOND READING

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

P The Second Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter two.

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“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— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

²⁵“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;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let Your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’

²⁹“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. ³⁰Being 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, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being 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.

³⁴“For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

‘The LORD said to my Lord,

Sit at My right hand,

³⁵until I make Your enemies Your footstool.’

³⁶“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Isaiah 6:3b



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia.

The alleluias are repeated.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³Jesus answered him, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵Jesus answered, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**”

⁹Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰Jesus answered him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?**

¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

ATHANASIAN CREED

- ¹ Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.
- ² Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.
- ³ And the catholic faith is this,
- ⁴ that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.
- ⁵ For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
- ⁶ But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
- ⁷ Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
- ⁸ the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
- ⁹ the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
- ¹⁰ the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.
- ¹¹ And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
- ¹² just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.
- ¹³ In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
- ¹⁴ and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.
- ¹⁵ So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
- ¹⁶ and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.
- ¹⁷ So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
- ¹⁸ and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.
- ¹⁹ Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
- ²⁰ The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.
- ²¹ The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
- ²² The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.
- ²³ Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
- ²⁴ And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;
- ²⁵ but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshipped.
- ²⁶ Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.
- ²⁷ But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ²⁸ Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.
- ²⁹ He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
- ³⁰ perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
- ³¹ equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- ³² Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
- ³³ one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- ³⁴ one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
- ³⁵ For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- ³⁶ who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,
- ³⁷ ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- ³⁸ At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.
- ³⁹ And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- ⁴⁰ This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

HYMN OF THE DAY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 426



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

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

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For an ever-growing understanding of the depths of God's riches, wisdom and knowledge through His Word,
that we may glorify Him forever, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the missionaries of our Church as they go to the ends of the earth with the good news of the Gospel, that many may hear of God's love in His Son and be saved through faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who deny the new birth of water and the Spirit to infants and children, that the Lord of hosts would open their eyes and hearts to the fullness of His grace and these little ones would be hindered no longer from being born again and seeing His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives in service to this nation, that we may honor their sacrifice by using our liberty responsibly; for all who travel, that they would be kept safe; for our nation and its blessing; and for aid in protecting and increasing the benefits we have for those who follow after, looking always to You, from whose hand these benefits come, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who suffer any malady of mind, body, or soul, that the Lord of hosts would uphold them in the truth that since He is at their right hand they cannot be shaken; and that He would gladden their hearts, cause their tongues to rejoice, and make their flesh dwell in hope, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who commune, that by Christ's body and blood on our lips, our guilt be taken away and our sin atoned for, that we would not be lost but abide in His holy presence forever, and emboldened with renewed and strengthened faith be ever ready to make the Good Confession, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
- Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. You created us in Your own image and redeemed us with the precious blood of Your Son. By Your Spirit You sanctified us and called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Grant that we may with thankful hearts receive these great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Deliver us from sin and error, from the frailties of the flesh, the allurements of this present age, and the temptations of the devil. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we may live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

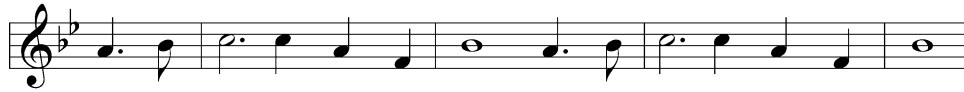
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord’s Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law’s de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

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✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
 (TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

On Holy Trinity Sunday we recite the most lengthy and most precise of the three ecumenical creeds: the Athanasian Creed. While it is repetitive, long, intricate, and can be at times confusing, it is *thorough* in detailing who and what the Holy Trinity is and what He is not. It *can also* be a source of a bit of fun—there is a great little video by *Lutheran Satire* that shows how the Creeds help guard us from misunderstandings and false-teachings. I encourage you to give it a view and enjoy a laugh: www.LutheranSatire.org/media/st-patricks-bad-analogies/

Also, I'm writing my "final thoughts" on Friday, a bit earlier this week than usual (most of the time I write these final thoughts late on a Saturday night), because I'm off to receive my COVID-19 vaccination and word on the street is that I'm not going to feel very well on Saturday.

I admit I'm a bit anxious. There are a lot of competing "voices" in mass media and online, all with different takes on the vaccines as regards safety, effectiveness, ethical development, and so on.

To be fair, a lot of these concerns have merit—and there is merit to the reasons for one to get the vaccine—but I draw the line at the conspiracy theories about being "microchipped" by the government (I just can't give credence to that one LOL!).

But there was a paragraph in the Fact Sheet that stood out to me and gave me pause for concern: "The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is *an unapproved vaccine* that may prevent COVID-19. . . . The FDA has authorized the *emergency use* of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine . . ." (*emphasis added*).

Now, this isn't stopping me from getting the vaccine today, but I won't fault anyone for thinking twice and waiting to get one of these or another vaccine in the future.



Please remember that our "Zoom" **Congregational Meetings** is **Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm.**

- To join the meeting on your computer, use this link—
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715?pwd=WDdaekl0TmM2QXRISExYR0NURmpidz09>
- To join the meeting on your telephone, call any of the following Zoom telephone numbers:
 - 669-900-9128, 346-248-7799, 253-215-8782, 312-626-6799, or 646-558-8656
 - The Meeting ID is 7603525715# and the Password is 12345

And please join me for our **study of the Psalms each Tuesday at Noon on "Zoom."** This week we are studying **Psalm 44**. While we are having our Bible Study this Tuesday, there is **no Midweek Service on Wednesday** (we'll resume this on June 9).

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for computer and telephone is "12345"

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box:
Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

P.S. Remember that the Rev. Brian Hamer will be filling-in for me next Sunday, June 6. He is an LCMS Chaplain with the United States Marine Corps and has graciously offered to care for all of you while I am away. Please give him a warm welcome.