



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 6, 2021

(Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod)
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- **First-time visitors**—please fill out the yellow card in the seat in front of you and return this card to the offering plate or the pastor.
 - You can follow the **order of service** printed out in the **bulletin**.
 - **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal in front of you.
 - A printed copy of today's **sermon** is located on the table in the narthex.
 - Please reserve the back pews for parents with **small children**. If you have a fussy child, feel free to use the parents' room in the back of the sanctuary.
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OPENING HYMN: #193 – Come, Now, Almighty King

INVOCATION:

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

CONFESSION:

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride; for sins of habit and sins of choice; for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION:

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.....CW #334
(sung after a brief musical introduction)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow". It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n -
ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Almighty God the Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ: in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah's vision of God is both frightening and revealing.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

PSALM 150:



Praise God in his sanctuary;*
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;*
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Refrain

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,*
praise him with the harp and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and dancing,*
praise him with strings and flute,

praise him with the clash of cymbals,*
praise him with resounding cymbals.

Refrain

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*
Praise the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: The grace, the love, the fellowship: That is the story of the Trinity in the lives of believers. 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All God's people here send their greetings.

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia!

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

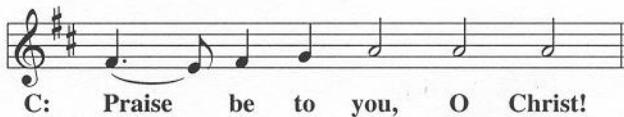
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON: God reveals himself as triune. Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

M: This is the gospel of the Lord.



THE ATHANASIAN CREED:

C: Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY:.....CW #195 (st. 1)

**C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty;

yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord,

so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

**C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.**

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten,
but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior,
but all three persons are coequal and coeternal,
so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped
as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

**C: *(sung)* Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
That our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God
and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born
in time

from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human
flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;
and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,
one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;
one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,
so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the
dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty,
and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies
to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life.
but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

**C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

SERMON:.....Matthew 28:19

Why Belief in the Trinity Is the True Saving Faith

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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:

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN:..... CW #369 – Beautiful Savior

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PARTICIPANTS

Officiant: Pastor Fred Piepenbrink
Organist: Mrs. Ruth Breiling

The quarterly voters' meeting will be held today immediately following the worship service. Please consider joining us to make important decisions about the direction of our church.

ATHANASIAN CREED

Background

Christians have constantly struggled to keep the faith free from being overpowered by its surrounding culture. In the Greek culture of Alexandria, Egypt, in the early 300s, a persuasive preacher with a logical mind used his culture to explain the connection between Jesus and the Father. Arian, a product of his culture, leaned on the commonly held Greek concept that a god was high, distant, and almighty—while humans were low, spatial, and inferior.

Arian taught that the Father alone was the real God. Jesus, because he was human and created, by nature did not possess the divine qualities of eternal, sovereign wisdom or goodness, and therefore was far less than the Father. Arian, however, did admit that Jesus was sinless and unchangeable *in practice*, but not by *nature*.

The problem: When the Son was separated from the Father, Jesus' role as a true expression of God's love and mercy was undermined, while the idea that humans are inferior was further perpetuated.

Standing for the *two-fold nature* of Christ was Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria. The complex creed combating Arian bears his name. With great redundancy, the creed reasserts the theme of the Nicene Creed—*that Jesus is God and by nature is equal with the Father*. It hopes to add some clarity and precision to the teaching on the Trinity.

By affirming Jesus' *divinity*, the creed informs us that his message is not simply opinion; it carries divine authority. By affirming Jesus' *humanity*, the creed also confronts the notion that human beings are worthless worms, less than valuable to God.

