

12 June 2022 Trinity Sunday Third Order of Communion p 168

Hymn o Breathe of God TIS 408

Sentence

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? 'The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.' Proverbs 8.1, 22

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect

Father, we praise you, that through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things; you reveal your salvation in all the world through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh; through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love: fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Proverbs 8.1-4, 8.22-31

¹ Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? ² At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; ³ beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: ⁴ 'To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all humanity. ²² 'The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works,, before his deeds of old; ²³ I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. ²⁴ When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; ²⁵ before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, ²⁶ before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. ²⁷ I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. ³⁰ Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, ³¹ rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in the human race.

Psalm 8

¹ O Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth!
² Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted: by the mouths of babes and sucklings.
³ You have founded a strong defence 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 which you have set in order, ⁵ What are we, that you should be mindful of us: what are we, that you should care for us? ⁶ Yet you have made us little less than gods: and have crowned us with glory and honour. ⁷ You have given us dominion over your handiwork: and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet, ⁸ All sheep and oxen: and all the creatures of the field,
⁹ The birds of the air and the fish of the sea: and everything that moves in the pathways of the great waters.
¹⁰ O Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Romans 5.1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

John 16.12-15

¹² 'I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.'

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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 was 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 and the Son, 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

CONFESSION

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together,

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty TIS 132

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.

Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise: **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen. The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Almighty and eternal God, may we who have received this sacrament of your Son's body and blood worship you in all we do, proclaim your word to all the world, and live in the power of your Spirit.

Father,

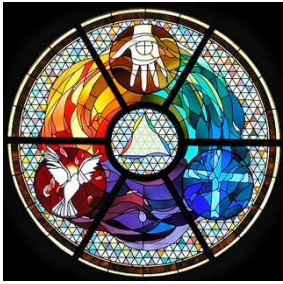
we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn King of Glory king of Peace TIS 142

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in all truth and peace and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



Trinity Sunday is notoriously the hardest Sunday of the year to preach on basically because the greatest theologians in the world cannot agree on the fine details and I am not one of the greatest theologians in the world. Many people have attempted to express it through diagrams, and I've used many of those as our backgrounds this week. When I was young long before I became an Anglican, I used to visit Anglican Churches whenever I could because I loved how the liturgy incorporated all of the trinity. As we read the rest of the service, just notice how often each member of the trinity is mentioned. Just to make sure I don't make any mistakes I will be quoting a lot of scripture today. Later when we say the creed, we will get our theology right but for now let's think a little about the persons of the godhead and how they work together.

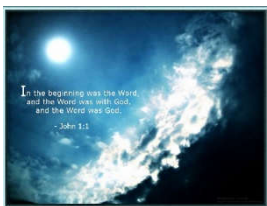


We think of the Father as the Creator and that is absolutely right. Our Psalm today is a wonderful liturgy of praise to God the Father, creator of all the earth. Isaiah (40: 28) says *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

I'm sure you would all be able to quote the first verse of the Bible to me: (Gen1:1): *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* But I wonder how many can say the next verse: (Gen 1:2) *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

When God created the world, the Spirit was there; just like what it said in our reading from proverbs today ²⁷ *I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,* ²⁸ *when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep.*

Wisdom is another name for the Holy Spirit.



While we're looking at creation - what are the first verses of John's gospel. (John 1:1f) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was with God in the beginning.* ³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

When God created the world, the Word, the Son, Jesus was there.



We think of Jesus, the son, as our saviour and so he is. He came to earth to live as one of us, to teach us and ultimately to die and rise for us just so that he could save us from the consequences of our mistakes.

But from the very beginning the people of Israel recognised Yahweh as their saviour, The Old Testament is full of references to God as Saviour including many Psalms: (Psalm 25:5) *Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.*

God the Father is our saviour.

And then the 2nd letter to the Thessalonians (2:13) it says: *God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*

The Spirit also saves us.



We tend to think of the Spirit as God's enduring presence on earth. And that is exactly what he is, the Spirit of truth, is here, to guide us into all truth. He does not speak on his own but speaks only what he hears, He will glorify Jesus because it is from Jesus that he will receive what he makes known to us.

Have you ever noticed how many times Yahweh says to his faithful people "I will be with you"? It starts with Abraham and continues through so many times: (Genesis 26:3), to Jacob: *and I will be with you and will bless you.*

God the Father has always been with his people.

At the end of the great commission Jesus say: (John 28:20f) *And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Jesus has promised to be with us, and Jesus keeps his promises.



Are you confused? What am I saying here? I am saying that that God is one, everything that God does, the trinity does in unity.

Jesus always understood that he and the Father were one, he often spoke of being one with the father and only doing what he saw the father doing, at his baptism he received a special anointing of the Spirit so that he could always know what the Father was saying despite being reduced to human form.

Each person of the trinity has their specialist role or dedicated task, but they never work alone, they always work together.



Have you ever watched a really good group of dancers do one of those complicated dances? They move together, they echo each other, they form a total unity and yet they are each unique. One might be more prominent at the moment, but the others are there, supporting and keeping in time. To me that image helps me understand a little of the trinity. Our life of following Our Lord is to join the dance, let our loving Lord guide us and move us and we will fit in with their wonderful frolic through eternity. (Galatians 5: 26) *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

When Jesus or the Father want to speak to us, they say it through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reminds us of the things that Jesus said while he was on earth, the nature of God the Father and gives us new ways of seeing old truths.



The Holy Spirit works through other people to guide and encourage us, and He also works through our own minds and hearts. Sometimes he reminds us of a song, or a scripture which is exactly what we need to hear. Sometimes he sends his still small voice into our minds to give us the word, the peace, courage, motivation or the comfort that we need to hear that day. Jesus left his Holy Spirit with us so that we can always feel God's love and so that we can always talk to him.



The Father has always acted out of love for us, he created the world and humanity so that we could have a relationship of love with him and from the very beginning his plan was always and still remains as the very essence of love towards us. Constant, unconditional love.

Jesus is the embodiment of God's grace to us. He was there at the creation of the world, and he gave up his glory, came to earth, died, rose, and ascended so that we could be in relationship with God. That is totally generous and total giving of himself for us. That is grace.

The Holy Spirit is the incarnation of God who was always present from the beginning, who remains on earth with us to continue that fellowship forever. God doesn't want a long distance relationship with us or just an hour of communication each Sunday, he wants a real living relationship, a sharing, that involves every moment of our lives. That is fellowship.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen