



PRINCE OF PEACE THOUSAND OAKS



The Festival of the Holy Trinity
June 4, 2023



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Your place to find peace!

www.princeofpeaceto.com

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The Festival of the Holy Trinity + June 4, 2023

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Christ is risen! Our Easter joy continues for a total of seven weeks. (Really, we celebrate Easter every Sunday – that’s actually why we worship on Sunday!) During this season, we hear how Jesus appeared to His followers, teaching them and showing them that He was alive and what it means for us still today. We are so grateful that you are here today and invite you to come back again in the future. Before you leave, please take a moment to fill out a **Connection Card** found on the table where you entered and hand it either to an usher or to Pastor Bater before you leave. Thank you!

TODAY’S THEME: THE HOLY TRINITY

Today we celebrate the only festival in the Christian Church dedicated to a teaching rather than a historical event. On Trinity Sunday we think about God’s essence. God clearly says that He is “one” – there are no other gods beside Him. At the same time, He reveals that He is “three” – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and yet He is not three gods but only one God. The term coined by Christians long ago to describe this beautiful mystery is “Trinity,” coming from the Latin words for “three” and “one.” God is “triune”: He is three divine Persons, yet one God. The true God reveals His essence to us not so that we can understand Him, but so that we can know Him and worship Him as He is. Today we receive the gifts of the Holy Trinity and worship Him!



PARTICIPATION & CHILDREN

Even from their earliest years, children are models of faith for all of us. Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is designed for active engagement and participation by all, including children. The sights and sounds of active children are a great joy to us and evidence that God is blessing our future even now. We know it’s not always easy to keep little ones occupied, but we are here to support you in training up your children in the way of the Lord! God bless you in this worthwhile endeavor. **There are coloring and activity sheets for kids on the back table which highlight today’s theme.** For ease and your convenience, the entire order of service is printed out on the following pages. The parts in regular font are spoken or sung by the *pastor*. While the parts in **bold** are spoken or sung by the whole **congregation**. Please participate as you are comfortable.



THE DIVINE SERVICE



OPENING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" | #483

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) wrote this hymn for Holy Trinity Sunday. He uses reverent and apocalyptic language from Revelation 4-5 and Isaiah 6 to sing the great majesty of our triune God.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

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

Amen.

The Invocation recalls our baptism where the Triune God put His name on us as His very own. It is the historic Christian practice to make the sign of the cross upon hearing these words throughout the service whenever the sign of the cross is made.

CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sin

with His innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in Him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

*There is a wide gulf between God in His holiness and us in our sinfulness. We put on clean clothes in the morning to come to church, but more importantly we need a clean heart in the presence of the Lord. So at the very beginning of the Divine Service, we lay our sins on Jesus through **confession** and are assured that God does not condemn us for our sins, but forgives us for the sake and on account of Jesus.*

OUR LORD'S ABSOLUTION

John 20:23

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

*Because Jesus took away the sins of the world, He authorized His followers to announce His forgiveness to all who repent of their sins. Jesus' forgiveness, proclaimed by His servants, "**absolves**" us, that is, it sets us free from the guilt of our sins.*

Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word 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.

Amen.

KYRIE

"Trisagion"

This ancient song comes from the Orthodox church and sings praise to our triune God. Christians have been singing this song on Trinity Sunday for at least 1600 years. The title "Trisagion" is Greek for "three times holy." The minister will sing it through the first time, the congregation is then asked to repeat it, followed by the final verse.

First time: *Cantor*

Second time: Congregation repeats

Ho - ly God. Ho - ly and
 might - y. Ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have
 mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

Third time (key change): Congregation sings below

Ho - ly God. Ho - ly and
 might - y. Ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have
 mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
 Have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. **2**

THE WORD OF GOD



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty God and 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.

Amen.

The Prayer of the Day helps us focus on a central theme taken from the Scripture readings of the day. There is a specific Prayer for each Sunday and festival of the church year, many of which are centuries old.

Today's prayer echoes thoughts from Isaiah 6, where God cleansed Isaiah's lips and forgave his sin so that he could go and share the LORD's mercy. We pray for the same cleansing and confidence.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31; 2:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. ...

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

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

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

We see all three persons of the Godhead at work here in the creation account. The Trinity speaks to itself and of itself in the amazing words that displayed God's intent for the crown of His creation: "Let us make man in our image."



²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Part I

*This Christian statement of faith is named after **Athanasius**, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the Fourth Century. It was prepared to help Christians combat a grave error that attacked the Bible's teaching of the Holy Trinity. Martin Luther once said of this creed: "I do not know of any more important document of the New Testament church since the days of the apostles."*

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. May these words be productive for you, listen to my appeal, 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 the saints 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Paul the apostle concludes his final letter to the believers in Corinth. He had much to address and correct in this congregation and now prays the triune God blesses their unity in faith.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Part II

In the same way

the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, and 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.

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.

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.

This portion of the creed is written against the heresy known as "tritheism," which teaches that God is one but is divided into three different parts thus denying that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is each true God on His own.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

The disciples meet Jesus on a mountain in Galilee –a man who had died, but now lives again. And if what Jesus said about Himself was true, then God had died and risen for them too; and now, God Himself was calling them to a ministry of all nations.

The disciples show their faith in Jesus by worshiping Him and listening to what He said.

When 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."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Part III

The final part of the Athanasian Creed addresses another heresy that came up at the time which denied that Jesus was both true man and true God in one person. Our confession here is clear: to believe in the true God of the Bible is to believe in Jesus who is truly both God and man.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"May the Peace of God" | #929

This modern hymn puts the words we just heard in 2 Corinthians 13 to a powerful tune: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

SERMON

OFFERING

2 Corinthians 9:7

***If you are a guest with us this morning** we are so happy you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. While the members of Prince of Peace support this ministry with their gifts, we understand you might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same. Your gift today is your attendance and we are so grateful for it. We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Connection Card** (located on the table near the entrance) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Bater following the service.*

For those who wish to give a gift, there are a number of ways to do so:

- ❖ **An offering plate** is located near the doors where you entered the chapel.
- ❖ **Text PEACE1 to 1-888-364-4483.** You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to our secure online giving site where you can choose the amount and frequency of your gift.
- ❖ **Scan** the code to the right with the camera on your smartphone to be redirected to the "Give" page on our website.

"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Prayer of the Church is the main prayer of the Divine Service. God has spoken to us through His Scriptures. In faith, we respond by speaking to Him in prayer.

Each petition of the prayer will conclude this way:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

THE SACRAMENT



PREFACE

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

The words of the Preface are repeated again to begin the Sacrament. They are rooted in Scripture and have been spoken or sung by Christians to begin the Sacrament portion of the service for over 1800 years.

The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.

Together we lift our hearts in faith to our Lord, who comes to us in Holy Communion to give us His saving gifts.

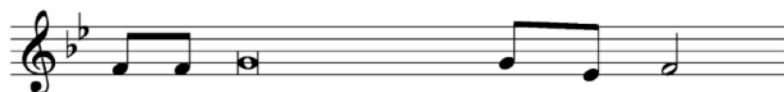
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

"The Lord be with you" echoes greetings exchanged by God's people throughout the Bible (see Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22).

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and now we confess that you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, are one God and one Lord, and we acknowledge you as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy” | Isaiah 6:1-3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise our God using words from the angels around God's throne (Isaiah 6) because our Savior is here with us in a special way in Holy Communion. We also echo the words spoken of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. As Jesus entered on a lowly donkey that day, so He comes to us today in simple bread and wine.

This song is called the **Sanctus**, which is Latin for 'holy.' It is also one of the oldest songs of the liturgy already present as early as the turn of the first century.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

“Verba” | Matthew 26:26-28

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given 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.”

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my blood ✝ of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

The Words (Latin: ‘verba’) of **Institution** both proclaim the words of Jesus and declare the Sacrament to be what it is: His true body and blood, under the bread and wine, given for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins.

The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God" | John 1:29

John the Baptizer once called Jesus the "**Lamb of God.**" The innocent death of Christ in our place frees us from sin's guilt and condemnation.

Through His atoning work, we have peace with God. This song is known as the *Angus Dei*, Latin for 'Lamb of God' and dates back to the 7th century.

* **At the conclusion of the song, please be seated.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.



Please be seated.

FOR OUR GUESTS:

ABOUT RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT AT PRINCE OF PEACE:

Prince of Peace participates in the historic practice of **Closed Communion** because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. We ask those who are not members of Prince of Peace to please speak with our pastor before communing. **Membership comes from participating in our Bible Information Class called "Gracebook."** A new class is starting soon! Please speak with Pastor Bater if you're interested and would like to learn more! **Thank you for respecting our Communion practice.**

RECEIVING A BLESSING:

Adults and children who are not members of Prince of Peace may come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms in front of you. (If people who are new to our church come forward, the pastor will give them a blessing.)



DISTRIBUTION HYMN *“Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us”* | #566

This hymn was written back in 2000 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our national church body. In it, we praise Father, Son and Spirit for the amazing things He has done for us in the past which compels us to proclaim His gospel promises into the future.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”* | #484

We marvel at the beauty and mystery of our triune God. If we only had more voices and mouths with which to praise our gracious and mysterious God! The middle verses each glorify an individual person of the Trinity for His grace, mercy, power, and work.

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 118:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

His love endures forever.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Having received the gracious gift of our Lord's forgiveness in the Body and Blood of Christ, we respond with a prayer of thanksgiving.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

*The **Blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for more than 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" The blessing is not merely a wish; it is the powerful promise of God's love, peace and protection. It is yours. Take it with you today and always!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy some coffee, food, and fellowship in the entryway. Family Bible Hour will begin in 15 minutes – all are welcome to attend!

THANK YOU

We thank our Lord for ... **all** who are able to worship with us this morning, especially those who are our **guests** today– we pray you were strengthened by God’s Word and hope you’re able to come back again in the future! ... **Bob Hatch, Steven Hobbs, and the mini choir** for using their musical gifts to accompany our service ... the **Hobbs family** for supplying our altar flowers this morning ... **Peter de Ruyter** who provided our post-service treats ... our **Sunday School teachers** for all their hard work and preparation week after week to love our children by teaching them Jesus ... **Augusto Gennell** for all the work he does around our property throughout the week ... **revealing to us the beautiful mystery of His essence which is love.**

Stewardship

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<u>ATTENDANCE: MAY 28TH</u>		
WORSHIP: 73	BIBLE CLASS: 13	SUNDAY SCHOOL: 15
Offerings 5/28: \$2,549.43	Weekly Offering need: \$4,038.46	Wkly Diff. (\$1,489.16)
YTD Offerings: \$96,007.39*	YTD Offering need: \$88,846.12*	YTD Diff: + \$7,161.27
does not include special gifts or WCA preschool rent; only general offerings		
<u>NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH</u>		
<u>USHERS: PETER D. & BRENT S. TREATS: OPEN FLOWERS: OPEN</u>		
ENJOY SOME FELLOWSHIP — FAMILY BIBLE HOUR WILL BEGIN IN 15 MINUTES		
<i>“...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”</i> (Romans 12:1)		



PRINCE OF PEACE THOUSAND OAKS

WWW.PRINCEOFPEACETO.COM

In the land of a 'thousand oaks,' oak trees are kind of important. So important, in fact, they're even protected by city ordinance which forbids them from being cut down! But did you know oak trees are also important to God? Not only because they are part of His creation but also because God once used oak trees to describe His people. Now, being compared to a tree might not sound like much of a compliment, but think about what God is saying! Oak trees are powerful and majestic; they have deep and strong roots; they are beautifully adorned with leaves to provide shade and comfort for those nearby; they can withstand harsh drought conditions; and all of this happens because they thrive and grow in the presence of the sun.

This is why Prince of Peace exists: to plant and strengthen "oak tree" Christians. We believe this happens when people come into the presence of the Son, Jesus Christ, who draws near to us through His Word (the Bible) and Sacraments (Baptism & Communion). Here the Lord fortifies and deepens the roots of our faith. He gives us endurance and hope to withstand the harsh conditions of living in a broken world. And He beautifully adorns us with His grace, equipping us to serve those around us with love and good deeds.

Thank you for coming this morning. We hope you were comforted by God's Word and strengthened for your walk of faith this week. If you have any questions about our ministry, please speak with Pastor Bater after the service or set a time to meet with him in the future. He would love to get to know you better! He can be reached on his cell at **517.256.0042** or by email at pastor@princeofpeaceto.com. May the loving Savior, our Prince of Peace, be with and bless you throughout the Lenten season!

“Oaks of righteousness ... a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.”

Isaiah 61:3