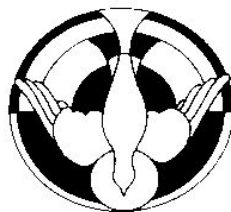
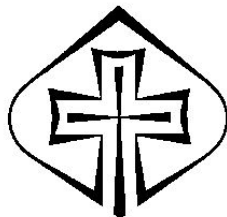


May 30, 2021



Holy Trinity Sunday

At Home Worship
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

Congregation O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

Congregation therefore You are feared.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, 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.

Congregation Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy*

- 1. 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!**
- 2. Holy, holy, holy, All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee;
Which wert and art, and ever-more shalt be.**
- 3. Holy, holy, holy, Tho' the darkness hide Thee,
Tho' 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.**
- 4. 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.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;

Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;

Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.

We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,

Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,

You bore for us the load of this world's sin.

O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,

Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,

At God's right hand in majesty most high:

Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,

With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ In 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.² Above 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.³ And one called to another and said:

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

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.⁵ And 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!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸ And 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."

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

14 But Peter, 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---²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.²⁴ God 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;

26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

my flesh also will dwell in hope.

27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One see corruption.

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

35 until 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."

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter three, beginning at verse one.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.² This 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."³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."⁴ Nicodemus 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?"⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'⁸ The 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."

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"¹¹ Truly, 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.¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

After the reading:

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith for Trinity Sunday:

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed *(And Luther's Small Catechism Explanation)*

Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

We All Believe in One True God (LSB 953, stanza 1)

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present Help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host,
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

The Second Article *(and Luther's Explanation)*

Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

We All Believe in One True God (LSB 953, stanza 2)

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

The Third Article *(and Luther's Explanation)*

Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

We All Believe in One True God (LSB 953, stanza 3)

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds;

Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.

Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

Sermon

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

after each portion of the prayer:

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for meditation)

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Congregation To You, O Lord.

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

LORD'S 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

America The Beautiful

- 1. O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.**
- 2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul with self-control, Thy liberty in law.**
- 3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine.**
- 4. O beautiful for patriot dream That sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; Rev. Stephen Gewecke, newly elected NJ District President and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2nd Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, BJ Heinz, Christopher Huss, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Pastor Ed Lazarchak, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Richard Ruhl and the residents and staff of Evergreen Court, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

NEWS AND NOTICES

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in loving memory of my Dad, Fred Fiedler, on his birthday, June 1st, by Cindy Schama.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH is Ministry to the Armed Forces, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (www.lcms.org).

ST. PAUL'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE FLOAT--Thank you to Brian Pierro for the float and the Jeep for the parade! Join us at 8:30 AM on Monday, May 31 in the church parking lot to decorate.

THE 2021 FLOWER CHART is in the Narthex. You can sign up there or complete the form and mail it back to St. Paul's or email Lisa Bujas, Altar Guild, (LBujas@aol.com) to order online. Be sure to specify date and dedication.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, May 30

9:00 AM -- Bible Study

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Monday, May 31

8:30 AM – Memorial Day Float Decoration in the parking lot

Wednesday, June 2

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class