

Sunday 12 June 2022

Trinity Sunday



This image of the Trinity comes from a mid-thirteenth-century stained-glass window in Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate in York. It shows three identical-looking 'men' crowning the Virgin Mary.

Sermon © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

Liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Father in Heaven](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All 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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Holy, holy, holy.

When our eyes have seen the Lord of hosts we echo the words of Isaiah, ‘Woe is me! I am doomed’.

We long for the fire of God’s cleansing to touch our unclean lips,
for our iniquity to be removed and our sins wiped away.

So we meet with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with confession on our lips.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'the **Ash Grove**'.

All Sing glory to God in the height of the heavens,
salvation and peace to his people on earth;
our King and our Saviour, our God and our Father,
we worship and praise you and sing of your worth.

Creation unites in the power of the Spirit,
in praise of the Father, through Jesus the Son.
So complex, so simple, so clear, so mysterious,
our God ever Three yet eternally one.

Lord Jesus, the Christ, only Son of the Father,
the lamb who has carried our burden of shame,
now seated on high in the glory of heaven,
have mercy upon us who call on your name.

Refrain

**For you, only you, we acknowledge as holy,
we name you alone as our Saviour and Lord;
you only, O Christ, with the Spirit exalted,
are one with the Father, for ever adored.**

Refrain**The Collect for Trinity Sunday**

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
‘To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world’s first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race. *Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *Romans 5:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Father, we adore you

([please click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

'I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

'Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you'. *John 15:26—16:15*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Today sees the start of the great season of Trinity. In ages past, the season of Trinity was used as a form of catechesis—a season for teaching the elements of the Christian faith. So, during this time, Christians around the world will be thinking through questions such as, 'What is the Church?' 'What is prayer?' and so on. And today, the first day of the Trinity season, we start at the absolute beginning. We ask the question, 'Who is God?'

Before we begin to consider the question, I'll start with a story: the telescope was invented in the sixteenth century. One of the first good-quality instruments was made by the Italian astronomer, Galileo. One day he pointed his telescope at the planet Saturn. We know today how Saturn has enormous, beautiful rings around it, but Galileo didn't. His telescope was nowhere near as good as anything available today, so all he saw was a blob—the planet itself—and two smaller blobs, one either side, which he called 'ears.' He was bemused and could not work out what he was seeing. He looked through his telescope every night, but never solved the riddle of why Saturn had ears. In fact, it was more than a hundred years later, after astronomers had invented stronger and yet stronger telescopes, that the riddle of Saturn's 'ears' was solved: of course, Saturn has a central spherical body and rings.

A silly story, perhaps. We're now going to look through the telescope of faith at the heavens or, rather, at Heaven, at God. When you look at God, what do you see? A man on a cloud maybe, or a being on a sapphire throne, like that seen by Isaiah? Or do you see a Jewish Palestinian peasant healing, teaching and dying on a Cross? Or do you see tongues of fire descending from heaven on a group of frightened disciples, as we heard last week at Pentecost? Who and what is God to you? The answer to this vital question could very well determine our eternal destiny.

When a Christian first comes to faith, they tend to adopt a caricature image of God seeing just one person of the Trinity: the High Church tends to concentrate on God the Father, the Evangelical sees Jesus the Son, and the Charismatic Church tends to look first and foremost at the Holy Spirit. Oversimplifications, of course. But do we see one person of the Trinity as central with two 'blobs' either side, or do we see all three as one?

In the story of Galileo, he became obsessed with the mystery—what was he seeing? He didn't let the matter rest. Rather, he remade his telescope, made it stronger and better; he looked from every angle, continually seeking an answer. Similarly, we too must look at God through our lens of faith, looking at God through the Scriptures, through sharing the experiences of the great saints of the past, and most importantly, through prayer. Like Galileo, we must assemble stronger telescopes of faith—that's why it is so vital we must grow in prayer. Perhaps our telescope of faith ought to look inwards as well as outwards.

You see, the whole point of our being a Christian is to gain an ever clearer view of God. After all, a central assertion of Christianity is that God *is* knowable. That's why Jesus came to earth: his death and resurrection cleared away the clouds of sin obscuring the view between God up there and us down here, looking for God. And as our vision of God clarifies, we see God as a Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Each is the one God. Each is crucial for salvation. Each loves us dearly with a love beyond description. And each wants us to know him more.

Christian: it is your vocation to grow closer to God, and see for yourself who God is. It is your birth-right to see Him, and get close to Him in your prayer. It is your duty and your joy to come close to Him as a disciple and friend. The Christian whose vision of God is static is, in reality, backsliding in the faith. Is your vision of God growing?

So, today—Trinity Sunday—let us determine once more to explore God, to look at Him in our own lives of faith, and determine to get a closer view. Who is God to you?

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

We come boldly to the throne of grace,
praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
for mercy and grace.

All We plead before your throne in heaven.

Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls has found:
We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments ...
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

All We plead before your throne in heaven.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:
We pray for the Church, created for your glory,
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...
Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

All We plead before your throne in heaven.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death:
We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...
Breathe on them the breath of life
and bring them to your mercy and grace.

All We plead before your throne in heaven.

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:
We pray for ourselves,
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you ...
Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,
as we worship you, saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Amen.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

The peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.
The peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.
The peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you

HYMN 3 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.
And the blessing of God the Almighty
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Holy, holy, holy (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
you are one God, one Lord.
All that you reveal of your glory,
the same we believe of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, without any difference or inequality.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you,
Father of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
Three Persons we adore,
one in being and equal in majesty.
And so with angels and archangels,
with cherubim and seraphim,
we sing for ever of your glory:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.