

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

# *The Feast of the Holy Trinity*



*Our Savior Lutheran Church*

*Westminster, Massachusetts*

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

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# Our Savior Lutheran Church

June 4, 2023

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## On the Athanasian Creed

Early in the fourth century, a new teaching appeared which claimed that Jesus was not true God. Arius, the north African priest who first taught this, was extremely persuasive, and soon the controversy was so widespread that a church council was called to settle the matter. Out of that meeting in AD 325 came the Nicene Creed, which clearly confesses Jesus to be true God. That creed, which was expanded in AD 381 to defend the divinity of the Holy Spirit, is still widely used today as a confession of the triune faith. Despite the clarity of the Nicene Creed, the controversy continued for some time. Toward the end of the fifth century, another creed was written that marveled at the mystery of the Trinity in a way that no creed had ever done. Though attributed to Athanasius, a fourth-century opponent of Arius, this anonymous creed came at a later stage in the debate. The Athanasian Creed proclaims that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord's incarnation are the catholic faith. In other words, this is what the true church of all times and all places has confessed. More than fifteen centuries later, the church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given himself for our salvation.

## Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Visitors may come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. Our pastor would be glad to instruct you so that you can confess Jesus Christ with us and receive His holy body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

## Serving in Worship Today

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Preacher & Celebrant | The Rev. Peter Gregory      |
| Liturgist            | Dave Farabaugh              |
| Crucifer             | Matthew Connell             |
| Organist             | Anne Bennet                 |
| Acolytes             | Landon Vega, Simeon Gregory |

## Prayer for Worship

*At the beginning of the day:* Most glorious Trinity, in Your mercy we commit to You this day our bodies and souls, all our ways and goings, all our deeds and purposes. We pray You, so open our hearts and mouths that we may praise Your name, which above all names is holy. And since You have created us for the praise of Your holy name, grant that our lives may be for Your honor and that we may serve You in love and fear; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Of praise and supplication:* Lord God, creator of heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You for the abundant mercy that You this day so richly have provided for us, blessing us not only with daily bread for our bodies but also with heavenly food for our souls. Grant that Your living and powerful Word may abide in our hearts and work in us to Your glory and for our salvation. We commit ourselves to Your divine protection and fatherly care. Let Your holy angels be with us that the evil foe may have no power over us. Look in mercy on Your Church and deliver it from all danger and adversities. By Your Holy Spirit comfort and strengthen all who are in affliction or distress, and grant Your abiding peace to us all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## Cover Illustration

Stained glass depicting the Trinity  
at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Baltimore.  
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> Please stand and face the processional crucifix at the entrance to the nave. <

THE OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 239 – TEXT: LSB 905

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Come, Thou almighty King,<br/>Help us Thy name to sing;<br/>    Help us to praise;<br/>Father all-glorious,<br/>O'er all victorious,<br/>Come and reign over us,<br/>    Ancient of Days.</b></p> <p><b>2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,<br/>Gird on Thy mighty sword;<br/>    Our prayer attend.<br/>Come and Thy people bless,<br/>And give Thy Word success,<br/>And let Thy righteousness<br/>    On us descend.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Come, holy Comforter,<br/>Thy sacred witness bear<br/>    In this glad hour!<br/>Thou, who almighty art,<br/>Now rule in ev'ry heart,<br/>And ne'er from us depart,<br/>    Spirit of pow'r.</b></p> <p>△ <b>4 To Thee, great One in Three,<br/>Eternal praises be<br/>    Hence evermore!<br/>Thy sov'reign majesty<br/>May we in glory see,<br/>And to eternity<br/>    Love and adore.</b></p> |
|--|---|

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THE INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

*Thus says the Lord: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. Therefore, we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.*

**O Holy God, what have I feared more than You? What have I loved more than You? What have I trusted more than You? You know my sins, for all things lie naked and bare before Your eyes, and the secret idolatries of my heart are not hidden from You.**

**O Lord, deliver me, for I have done evil through my own fault; I have risked the loss of heaven and earned the pains of hell, and above all, I have grieved You who are all goodness, faithfulness, and love.**

**O LORD, our God, for the sake of Calvary, spare us for we flee to You for shelter, pardon all our sins, receive us as Your children, and fill us with Your sanctifying fire. Amen.**

*The Absolution*

[John 20:19–23]

**Amen**

*Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity.*

**Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.**

*I have set the LORD always before me;*

**because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

*Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;*

**my flesh also dwells secure.**

*For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,*

**or let Your Holy One see corruption.**

*You make known to me the path of life;*

**in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

## THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

*Glory to God on high:*

**and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,**

**We glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,**

**are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.*

**And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. 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. Amen.*

## ***The Reading of God's Word***

*from the Old Testament: Genesis 1:1–2:4a*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

*Psalm 8; antiphon v. 9*

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!*

**You have set Your glory above the heavens.**

*Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes,  
**to still the enemy and the avenger.***

*When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
**the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,***

*what is man that You are mindful of him,  
**and the son of man that You care for him?***

*Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
**and crowned him with glory and honor.***

*You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;  
**You have put all things under his feet,***

*all sheep and oxen,  
**and also the beasts of the field,***

*the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.***

*O LORD, our Lord,  
**how majestic is Your name in all the earth!***

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*O LORD, our Lord,  
**how majestic is Your name in all the earth!***

*from the Letters: Acts 2:14a, 22–36*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*from the Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16–20*

**Glory be to You, O Lord!**

*After the reading:*

**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

THE ATHANASIAN CREED: THE CHURCH'S CONFESSION OF THE HOLY TRINITY

*Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.*

*For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.*

**But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one:**

**the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**

*Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:*

**The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**

*The Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;*

**The Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**

*And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,*

**Just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**

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

**And yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.**

*So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;*

**And yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**

*So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;*

**And yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**

*Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,*

**So also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.**

*The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.*

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

*The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.*  
**Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons;  
one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.**

*And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;*  
**But the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal,  
so that in all things, as has been stated above,  
the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.**

*Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.  
But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son  
of God, is at the same time both God and man.*

*He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages;*  
**And He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:  
Perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;  
Equal to the Father with respect to His divinity,  
less than the Father with respect to His humanity.**

*Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion  
of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;*  
**One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**

*For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,  
Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,  
Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty,  
from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*  
**At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies  
and give an account concerning their own deeds.**

*And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.  
This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.*

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HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 578, STANZAS 1-4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;<br/>At Thy speaking it was done.<br/>For created light we thank Thee,<br/>While Thine ordered seasons run.<br/>Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Praise to Thee who light dost send!<br/>Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</b> | <b>2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,<br/>Dark as night and deep as death,<br/>Broke the light of Thy salvation,<br/>Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.<br/>Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Praise to Thee who light dost send!<br/>Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</b> |
|--|---|

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

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## *The Sermon*

*Matthew 28:16–20*

*THE OFFERTORY*

*Psalms 51:10–12*

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me out of Your presence,  
nor take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and sustain me with a free spirit. Amen.

## *The Presentation of the Offering*

*I will offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.*

**O LORD, my strength, I love You.**

## *The Prayer of the Church*

*after each petition:*

*. . . let us pray to the Lord:*

**Lord, have mercy.**



THE PREFACE

*The Lord be with you.*

2 Timothy 4:22

**And with your spirit.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

[Colossians 3:1]

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

[Psalm 136]

**It is good and right that we do.**

THE PROPER PREFACE

*It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:*

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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 Words of Institution***

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

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

**Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,  
 grant us Your peace. Amen.

## *Holy Communion*

> Note about Holy Communion: All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing. <

*Romans 6:3–4; 8:12–17; 11:33–36; 15:5–6*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 240

*These hymn stanzas can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #240.*

- 1 **Father most holy, merciful, and tender;  
 Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning;  
 Spirit of comfort, advocate, defender,  
 Light never waning;**
- 2 **Trinity blessed, unity unshaken,  
 Goodness unbounded, very God of heaven,  
 Light of the angels, joy of those forsaken,  
 Hope of all living,**
- 3 **Maker of all things, all Thy creatures praise Thee;  
 All for Thy worship were and are created;  
 Now, as we also worship Thee devoutly,  
 Hear Thou our voices.**
- △ 4 **Lord God Almighty, unto Thee be glory,  
 One in three persons, over all exalted!  
 Glory we offer, praise Thee and adore Thee,  
 Now and forever.**

Text: Public domain



1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; See the Man of  
 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown Him! Rich the tro - phies  
 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned Him, Mock - ing thus the  
 4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud tri -



Sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,  
 Je - sus brings; On the seat of pow'r en - throne Him  
 Sav - ior's claim; Saints and an - gels crowd a - round Him,  
 um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;



Ev - 'ry knee to Him shall bow. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
 While the vault of heav - en rings. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
 Own His ti - tle, praise His name. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
 Oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown Him! Crown Him!



Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns be - come the  
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown the Sav - ior  
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Spread a - broad the  
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and



vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.  
 King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior King of kings.  
 vic - tor's fame. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.  
 Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

Text and tune: Public domain

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Holy God, we praise Thy name;</b><br/>                 Lord of all, we bow before Thee.<br/>                 All on earth Thy scepter claim,<br/>                 All in heav'n above adore Thee.<br/>                 Infinite Thy vast domain,<br/>                 Everlasting is Thy reign.</p> | <p><b>2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn</b><br/>                 Angel choirs above are raising;<br/>                 Cherubim and seraphim,<br/>                 In unceasing chorus praising,<br/>                 Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:<br/>                 Holy, holy, holy Lord!</p> |
|---|--|

3 Lo, th'apostles' holy train  
Join Thy sacred name to hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain,  
And the white-robed martyrs follow,  
And from morn to set of sun  
Through the Church the song goes on.

4 Thou art King of Glory, Christ;  
Son of God, yet born of Mary.  
For us sinners sacrificed,  
As to death a Tributary,  
First to break the bars of death,  
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

△ 5 Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;  
Though in essence only one,  
Undivided God we claim Thee  
And, adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.

Text: Public domain

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32

Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised,  
for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people,  
a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
and His mercy endures forever.*

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.*

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

*Bless we the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.*

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

*The LORD bless you and keep you.*

*The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.*

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: TLH 246

*These hymn stanzas can also be sung from The Lutheran Hymnal #246.*

- 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 evermore shalt be.**
- 3 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.**
- 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!**

Text: Public Domain

## **Note on Holy Trinity Sunday**

*as we move from the festival half of the Church Year into the Time of the Church*

The second half of the Church year starts today on Trinity Sunday. Unlike the first half of the Church year with its changing seasons and colors and the joyous celebrations of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, we now enter a long stretch sometimes described as “ordinary time.” It’s not that these Sundays are dull or boring—how could they be when Christ comes with all His gifts! It’s just that during this time the Church settles into her regular rhythm and patterns.

So we call this “the Church’s half-year.” It’s all about what Jesus *does* right now in the world to everybody who receive Him. It’s all about how He opens God to us and opens us to God and takes us in, that is, from the time He baptizes each of us and, through the Holy Spirit, gives us faith to receive all the forgiveness and eternal life He won and accomplished for us once and for all. It’s all about receiving His grace now and growing in grace now and spreading His grace now and sharing in the life of Jesus now. We spend an entire half year studying and celebrating what Jesus Christ *does* in us, and we do it every year because we’ll never get done with how much He still *does* as our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord.

This time has been called “the Green Meadow” because green is the color on the altar, pulpit, lectern, and for Pastor’s stole. It’s the color of life and growth both in the natural world and for the Church as the Holy Spirit nourishes us through the Word of Christ and His Holy Sacraments. Still, between now and Advent, there are gentle and gradual changes in theme as we move from spring, through summer, to fall. The first Sundays after Trinity emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. Then we will name our Sundays by their connection to some key festival dates:

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| June 29      | St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles |
| August 10    | St. Lawrence, Martyr           |
| September 29 | St. Michael & All Angels       |
| November 1   | All Saints’ Day                |

These Sundays address the growth and fruits of Christian faith and love nurtured by the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (Apostles' Tide) and manifested in the bearing of the cross, even unto death (Martyrs' Tide). Following the Feast of St. Michael, the focus turns to the spiritual warfare of the Church against the devil, the world, and all the powers of darkness (Angels' Tide). The final Sundays of the Church Year focus on the hope and promise of the resurrection in view of the glorious coming of Christ for the final judgment (the Last Sundays of the Church year).

Then it's back to Advent again. And so it goes, Church year after Church year, round and round. You might think we were just going in circles, but the truth is that we'll go round and round and round and round and *then . . .* we'll fly off suddenly into splendor when Jesus comes again. He'll end this whole creation and the whole new creation will start. Christians who've died will come from heaven with Him and rise from their graves alive and well, and we who are still alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord, to pass through the judgment safe with Him and then to enter, body and soul, what no one has ever seen or heard or imagined. Everything He *did* for us, once for all, and everything He *does* in us now—it's all for this. It's all for the moment when we see with our own eyes Christ the King—already reigning—and start the life we were made for.

*"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared . . ."*

Titus 3:4

# God's People at Prayer

## For Home Devotions

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Readings from Holy Scripture

*These may be read in the morning and evening, as suggested here, or in any way that best works with your schedule.*

|   | Morning Prayer   | Evening Prayer |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Su  | Numbers 35:9–30  | Luke 24:28–53  |
| <i>After Trinity Sunday, the readings pick up as follows:</i> |                  |                |
| M   | Proverbs 1:8–33  | John 11:17–37  |
| Tu  | Proverbs 3:5–24  | John 11:38–57  |
| W   | Proverbs 4:1–27  | John 12:1–19   |
| Th  | Proverbs 5:1–23  | John 12:20–36a |
| F   | Proverbs 8:1–21  | John 12:36b–50 |
| Sa  | Proverbs 8:22–36 | John 13:1–20   |

### The Sacrament of the Altar

*As the head of the family should teach it to his household.*

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*From the Large Catechism:* There is also need for some admonition and encouragement. Then people may not let such a great treasure—daily administered and distributed among Christians—pass by unnoticed. So those who want to be Christians may prepare to receive this praiseworthy Sacrament often. For we see that people seem weary and lazy about receiving the Sacrament. . . . Those who are true Christians and value the Sacrament as precious and holy will drive and move themselves to go to it.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org.  
LC V, 39–40, 43.

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

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! LSB 507:4

### Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*The following topics may guide your prayer each day.*

- Su For the joy of the resurrection among us
- M For one's calling and daily work, coworkers, and the unemployed
- Tu For deliverance against temptation and evil; for all who suffer and are afflicted
- W For immediate, extended, and church family; for our schools, communities, and neighborhoods
- Th For the Church and her pastors, all who serve in the congregation, and missionaries
- F For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the sick and dying
- Sa For faithfulness to the end; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Collect of the Week

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. Amen.

### Readings for next Sunday, June 11

Hosea 5:15–6:6; Psalms 119:65–72 (v. 65) & 4 (v. 8);  
Romans 4:13–25; Matthew 9:9–13