

The First Reading - Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 4a

We begin today's readings with the opening of the first book of the Bible and its poetic account of the origin of all things in the will of the God, who is Creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

The Psalm - Psalm 8

The Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Paul ends this letter with the full form of his customary blessing. These simple trinitarian words, of grace, love, and communion have been familiar in every church in every century.

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 28: 16-20

Matthew ends his Gospel with the promise that Christ is always with us. The disciples are commissioned to carry Christ's own healing love, to make new disciples, and baptise them as the church has done ever since, in the name of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Collect One

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hast given unto us thy servants grace
by the confession of a true faith
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity;
We beseech thee,
that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith,
and evermore defend us from all adversities,
who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

Collect Two

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
Keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
may we who have received this holy communion,
worship you with lips and lives
proclaiming your majesty
and finally see you in your eternal glory:
Holy and Eternal Trinity,
one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

God is our creator and Father, made himself visible to us in his Son. Through his Spirit he loves us and wants to make Jesus known and loved. Let us pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, creator of heaven and earth, help us to respect your creation, to develop this world and to make this earth fruitful for the benefit of all people, we pray :

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, you have made your love of people visible in your beloved Son Jesus Christ, one of us, human like us, and our Savior. Help us to grow more like him and to continue on earth his task of bringing salvation and freedom to all, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, you pour out your life and love through your Holy Spirit in the hearts of people. Help us through him to heal what is wounded, to soften what is hard and to warm what is cold, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let this community and your whole Church become a living sign to this world of your own community of love, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Lord our God, be the foundation and the meaning of our Christian lives and lead your pilgrim people to the fullness of your life and love in the unity of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

At your word, O Christ, we have been sent to make disciples of all nations - baptizing and teaching. We ask for vision and humility for our task saying, "God of all people," and responding, "Hear our prayer."

A: For Bishop _____ (*eg, on his upcoming anniversary of ordination*), that he/she might model grace, acceptance and the depth of God's mercy in his daily work, especially for the unrighteous and those most undeserving of God's love. God of all people,

Hear our prayer.

For all teachers in the church, for our theological institute and schools and for all who help Christ's living word become a spring of fresh water for others, that they might joyfully continue in their apostolic task. God of all people,

Hear our prayer.

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For those who serve others, especially those who reach out to strangers with words of welcome and grace, that they might be strengthened in their witness. God of all people,

Hear our prayer.

For those who have been baptised and those who are preparing for Holy Baptism that they might joyfully walk in the way of Christ. God of all people,

Hear our prayer.

God of All People, you have set a table in our midst. Help us to remember those in our world who regularly are excluded from abundance: the poor, the homeless, the very old and the very young. Help us to become their servants so that their lives might be filled to overflowing. God of all people,

Hear our prayer.

Our greatest witness to your love, O Christ, is a commitment to justice. Grant that our lives might reflect your will. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 3

God is our creator and Father, made himself visible to us in his Son. Through his Spirit he loves us and wants to make Jesus known and loved. Let us pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, creator of heaven and earth, help us to respect your creation, to develop this world and to make this earth fruitful for the benefit of all people, we pray :

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, you have made your love of people visible in your beloved Son Jesus Christ, one of us, human like us, and our Savior. Help us to grow more like him and to continue on earth his task of bringing salvation and freedom to all, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, you pour out your life and love through your Holy Spirit in the hearts of people. Help us through him to heal what is wounded, to soften what is hard and to warm what is cold, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let this community and your whole Church become a living sign to this world of your own community of love, we pray:

Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Lord our God, be the foundation and the meaning of our Christian lives and lead your pilgrim people to the fullness of your life and love in the unity of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYERS

Let us Pray

[to the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
that our lives may bear witness to our faith]

Father,
you sent your Word
to bring us truth
and your Spirit to make us holy.
Through them we come to know
the mystery of your life.
Help us to worship you,
one God in three Persons,
by proclaiming and living our faith in you.
We ask you this, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, true and living, for ever and ever.

Let us Pray

[to our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]

God, we praise you:

Father all-powerful,
Christ Lord and Savior,
Spirit of Love.

You reveal yourself in the depths of our being,
drawing us to share in your life and your love.
One God, three Persons,
be near to the people formed in your image,
close to the world your love brings to life.
We ask you this, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, true and living, forever and ever.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given to us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of your divine Majesty
to worship the Unity:
Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship,
and bring us at last
to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father;
who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Divine Worship (and the Book of Common Prayer)

Father,

You sent your Word to bring us truth
and your Spirit to make us holy.
Through them we come to know the mystery of your life.
Help us to worship you, one God in three persons,
You reveal yourself in the depths of our being,
by proclaiming and living our faith in you.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen
The Liturgy of the Hours

Litany of the Most Holy Trinity

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Blessed Trinity,

hear us.

Adorable Unity,

graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Father from Whom are all things,

Have mercy on us.

Son through Whom are all things,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit in Whom are all things,

Have mercy on us.

Holy and undivided Trinity,

Have mercy on us.

Father everlasting,

Have mercy on us.

Only-begotten Son of the Father,

Have mercy on us.

Spirit Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

Have mercy on us.

Co-eternal Majesty of Three Divine Persons,

Have mercy on us.

Father, the Creator,

Have mercy on us.

Son, the Redeemer,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, the Comforter,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,

Have mercy on us.

Who is, Who was, and Who is to come,

Have mercy on us.
God Most High, Who inhabits eternity,
Have mercy on us.
To Whom alone are due all honor and glory,
Have mercy on us.
Who alone does great wonders,
Have mercy on us.
Power infinite,
Have mercy on us.
Wisdom incomprehensible,
Have mercy on us.
Love unspeakable,
Have mercy on us.

Be merciful,
Spare us, O Holy Trinity.
Be merciful,
Graciously hear us, O Holy Trinity.

From all evil,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all sin,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all pride,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all love of riches,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all uncleanness,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all sloth,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all inordinate affection,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all envy and malice,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From all anger and impatience,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From every thought, word, and deed contrary to Your holy law,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
From Your everlasting malediction,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
Through Your plenteous loving kindness,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
Through the exceeding treasure of Your goodness and love,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
Through the depths of Your wisdom and knowledge,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.
Through all Your unspeakable perfections,
Deliver us, O Holy Trinity.

We sinners,
Beseech You, hear us.

That we may ever serve You alone,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may worship You in spirit and in truth,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may love You with all our heart, with all our soul, & with all our strength,

We beseech You, hear us.

That, for Your sake, we may love our neighbor as ourselves,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may faithfully keep Your holy commandments,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may never defile our bodies and souls with sin,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may go from grace to grace, and virtue to virtue,

We beseech You, hear us.

That we may finally enjoy the sight of You in glory,

We beseech You, hear us.

That You would vouchsafe to hear us,

We beseech You, hear us.

O Blessed Trinity,

We beseech You, deliver us.

O Blessed Trinity,

We beseech You, save us.

O Blessed Trinity,

Have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy,

Lord Have Mercy

Blessed are You O Lord, in the firmament of heaven

And worthy to be praised, and glorious, and highly exalted forever!

Invocation to the Trinity: Trisagion

Holy God,

Holy Mighty,

Holy Immortal,

Have Mercy on Us

A traditional litany for Trinity Sunday

Worthy of praise from every mouth,
worthy of confession from every tongue,

worthy of worship from every creature,
is your glorious name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

For you created the world in your grace,
and by your compassion you saved the world.

To your majesty, O God,
ten thousand times ten thousand bow down and adore,
singing and praising without ceasing, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are full of your praises.

Hosanna in the highest. *Nestorian Liturgy, 5th Century – UIW*

SERMON SOURCES

Lectionary Notes

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Genesis 1:1-2:4a:

- This is the creation story - an interesting selection for Trinity Sunday! This is the *first* creation story - not the one with Adam and Eve and the serpent from later in Chapter 2. I love the creation story. I also believe in evolution. I don't find them to be contradictory. I asked my sixth grade Sunday School teacher how the world could be made in 7 days if dinosaurs were extinct so long before people were around. He said, "God's time isn't the same as our time, and a day in Genesis 1 isn't necessarily supposed to be a day like our days." I found that pretty satisfying. Why do we have to make it one or the other? Is our faith not strong enough to believe in evolution?
- Notice the *goodness* of creation in God's view. Everything God creates is good. EVERYTHING. One of my colleagues who is a probationary elder in the UMC as I am, got critiqued in her BOOM interview because she argued that humans are essentially good - her theology wasn't "original sin" enough for some. But who can argue with God? God created us - and declared us good.

Psalm 8:

- What a great psalm! Chalk full of good lines. 'How majestic is thy name in all the earth!' The words to one of my favorite praise songs. But beyond this opening line: "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God . . ." I think this verse is one of life's deepest questions. This is maybe more detailed than 'why are we here?', but it is close. It presumes God, but asks, 'why has God made us?' 'Why does God care about us?' 'What's the point?' I hate not having the answers sometimes, but I think it is part of what makes God God and me not God! "Dominion." This is a loaded word when it comes to our care of the earth and all

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that is in it. What does dominion mean? Domination? Responsible stewardship? License to do as we will? Care for our human needs above all else? As a vegetarian, and an earth lover, my senses are aware of a word like dominion - just us use with authority from God with great care!

2 Corinthians 13:11-13:

- A short and sweet selection - "live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." Ah, what a prayer. Paul encourages us to "agree with one another" and to practice peace. We need those words, don't we? Are we living in peace? Do you have peace in your home? Your heart? Your community?

Matthew 28:16-20:

- The Great Commission - a selection for Trinity Sunday because of the words commanding that we baptize, as we now do, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- "make disciples of all nations." This is a key verse for evangelism or proselytizing, and, as usual, is used by Christians differently depending on understandings of scripture and interpretation. The word for *disciples* is *mathe^{te}usate*, which literally means pupils, or students. What does it mean to be a student of Jesus? How do you make others into students of Jesus?
- The disciples are to teach others to "obey everything that [Jesus has] commanded" them. Not just to believe in Jesus - but to be Jesus-like and follow Jesus-like teachings.
- "I am with you always." I think those are some of the most comforting words in the whole Bible. *By Beth Quick*

Sermon starter

Matt 28:16-20 Then the 11 disciples went...

It had been a traumatic weekend for the disciples - had plumbed the depths of despair as their Lord & Master had been arrested & condemned, crucified & buried... Then (28.1) *Mary Magdalene & the other Mary* (wife of Clopas, mother of James & Joses Mk 16.11) *went to look at the tomb* - & saw an angel (2) & then Jesus himself (9) who told them: *Don't be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.* So the disciples duly obeyed.....

1. How they Went: - in obedience *to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go*. They went where Jesus sent them - the story of the Mission of the Church down the centuries

2. How the Worshipped: *when (17) they saw him him they worshipped him* - no other reaction to the Holy One - Son of God!... but sadly, not for all - even the disciples - *but some doubted* - reference possibly to Thomas?

Many today still doubt - agnostics - aren't sure..
disbelieve - atheists - cannot be true...
don't bother - apathy - couldn't care less...

3. How they Witnessed: *Go & make disciples of all nations - how? a) baptising them in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit b) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you*

If they did they were assured of the presence of the Risen Lord - *Surely (20) I will be with you always, to the very end of the age* - a wonderful promise/presence - available to all of us thro a living/saving faith in the Risen, Ascended & Glorified Lord. *By Norman Porteous*

Online sermon sources

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...."

There are probably fewer words in the Scriptures that have had a more profound effect on our common history as the men and women of the Christian faith in that simple phrase: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston was the president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, 1999-2008. He says as disciples of Christ we are heirs to that tradition.

http://day1.org/939-sermon_for_trinity_sunday

A Mystery Almost Too Good to Be

Live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you (2 Cor. 13:11). By John R Donahue in America. He says, "The Gospel of John does not present a theology of non-Christian religions, but it is written both for fence-sitters like Nicodemus (3:1-15) and for John's persecuted community".... and states that "The solemnity of the Holy Trinity offers the foundation of Christian hope."

http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=1952

Andrew Greeley

Andrew is one of the most insightful novelists and sociologists commenting upon Roman Catholic church life in the USA. As the name suggests he has deep Irish roots, and he draws on these telling the story of an orphan who leaves Kinsale for life in the USA, to introduce the Trinity as "a family into which God has invited us". A short and succinct background and story based on John 14: 15 - 21.

<http://www.agreeley.com/hom11/may29.htm>

Defining God

Uses the Da Vinci Code as a way into exploring the nature of Jesus and the Trinity. Leads in to making and being disciples.

<http://www.bethquick.com/sermon5-22-05.htm>

Children's address

Delivering the invitation

Relates invitations to birthday parties to Jesus' invitation to make disciples of all nations.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/delivering-invitation.html>