

Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28:16-20

Hymns: 801, 498, 500, 507, 618, 722.

The Athanasian Creed is on pge 319 LSB.

INTROIT: Psalm 8

P O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth!

C O set Your glory above the heavens!

P Out of the mouths of children and nursing infants You have established strength,

C because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

P When I look at Your heavens, which Your fingers have made,

C the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

P what is man, that You should be mindful of him,

C and the son of man, that You should be concerned about him?

P You have made Him lower than the angels for a little while,

C and You have crowned Him with glory and honour.

P You have made him master over the works that Your hands have made.

C You have put all things under his feet,

P all sheep and oxen,

C and even wild animals,

P the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea,

C which pass through the paths of the seas.

All O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth!

COLLECT: 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.**

Readings

Old Testament reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Epistle: Acts 2:14a, 22-26

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon for this morning is written in the book of Matthew 28:16-20 which was our Gospel reading before.

¹⁶ The eleven disciples went to the mountain in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ When Jesus came near, He spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and by teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you! Certainly, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your word is truth. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,
Peace be with you.

Do you know we're all in a race of some kind or other?

For those of us that are petrol heads would be familiar with this phrase. "Drivers! Start your engines!" - and men and women wearing tons of very expensive metal begin hurtling around a track at 300 km/hour in a race for a chequered flag, a pile of cash, hero status, and maybe a jug of milk!, or some other kind of refreshment.

Or this one. "Aaaaaand they're off!"- gates crash open and tons of very expensive horseflesh begin hurtling around a track, that stops a Nation!, whipped by the rather small men and women wearing rather colourful yet silly clothing who ride them intent on whipping them across the digital finish line for a pile of cash, hero status, and maybe a bunch of roses and a big, Golden, Cup.

How about this. "On your mark. Get set. Go!" the crack of a gunshot sends hundreds of kilos of well muscled men and women dashing around a track in short shorts and tank tops that look more like underwear!, and funny looking spiked shoes trying to be the first person to break the tape or another digital finish line for screaming fans, a pile of cash, hero status, and maybe a bunch of roses as well as a big, Golden, Medal,!

I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

With these words begins the human race. Countless people throughout the ages, as many as grains of sand on the seashore or stars in the heavens of all shapes, colours, sizes, nations, and tongues are sent forth into all the world, the world from which they came, already possessing all there is to have by the grace of God and restored through faith to be fully human and bearing the image of God once lost in sin. Yes, this race is much different from the others, for it is a race whose outcome is never in doubt, whose champion is Christ, and which is finished before it even begins.

Oh, the participants, the baptized beloved children of God, will certainly still experience the blood, sweat and tears of dedicated preparation, of unexpected twists, turns, and even fights and crashes. It may be seemingly far too short, or woefully long. But this race is different because it is a race where you do not compete toward the finish line, but the finish line is brought to you. Though the race remains to be run for as long as we are given to live on this earth, the outcome is never in doubt. The salvation from our sins that gives us eternal life was finished by Christ on the cross and has been delivered to us through the water poured over our heads, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

With these words, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the HOLY SPIRIT, **He saved us, not because of any righteous works that we have done, but because of His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit,** ⁶ **whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour,** ⁷ **so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.** [Titus 3:5-7.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With these words we are given the image of God which we were intended to be from the beginning, when God created the first man and woman. For in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the image lost **"as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death also spread to all people, since all have sinned."** [Romans 5:12.] is the image restored to us - **as through one man's transgression judgment came to all people, resulting in condemnation, so also, through One Man's righteous act, the free gift came to all people, resulting in justification, which brings life.** [Romans 5:18.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might begin to live a new life.** **5 If we have been planted together with Him in the likeness of His death, then we shall be planted together with Him also in the likeness of His resurrection.** [Romans 6:4-5.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With these words we have been freed from the burden of forever trying to please God. And make no mistake about it, every other religion, every other worship of God apart from these words is a false religion and a false god, based upon an endless, fruitless, hopeless quest to please or satisfy some ambiguous, obscure god - or figure out which god one should be concerned about pleasing and satisfying today. For with these words of Holy Baptism, God the Father (the One and only true God) looks upon us just as He looked upon His only begotten Son at His baptism, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**" [Matthew 3:17.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With these words God gives us the comfort and assurance that we are already among "*they that have done good [and] will go into everlasting life,*" as we confessed earlier in the Athanasian Creed,

For [by these words] **For He has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared in advance, in order that we may live in them.** [Ephesians 2:10.] We are His workmanship

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With these words not only is the race begun, but it is finished. For with these words, heaven has come to earth. Where these words are spoken, we can join with Luther in saying, "*This is surely God's house, here heaven has been opened to you.*" Yes, here in this place, where God speaks the words recalling your baptism, where God speaks His words of forgiveness to you when you confess your sins, where God gives you the very body and blood of His Son Jesus Christ, here heaven has been opened to you. Here, as in the word of God spoken through the Apostle Paul, **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit [is] with you all.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, you can be sure that the finish line of heaven is always before you because the God who awaits you at the finish line to give you the crown of life says, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. For with these words, God forgives you all your sins - in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

3rd Hymn: 500,

Prayer of the Church The Holy Trinity 2017

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

Brief silence

P Lord God, You have graciously revealed Yourself to us as one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank You for the gift of the Creeds that teach us to confess You, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Let us never cease to confess this faith in the Holy Trinity, giving glory always to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty Father, Your faithful servant Barnabas generously gave his life and gifts to support the work of the apostles and to benefit the early Christian community in Jerusalem. Grant that we may follow his example in giving our lives to charity and the proclamation of the Gospel. Be with all the congregations of the AELC and the ULMA. Bless the good work that they do in Your name, and let those served be strengthened both physically and spiritually. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Loving heavenly Father, look with favour upon the mission field we have here in our midst. Let our congregations take root and flourish, that through them the Spirit may bring the lost to the joy of faith in Christ. Be with all our church workers and their families, sustaining them in challenging times. Help us to support them with our prayers and in sharing those gifts You have poured out for us in abundance. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, kind Father, all who have been entrusted with offices of public service among us. Fill them with wisdom, and make them a blessing of Yours. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful Father, send Your Spirit of comfort to all who are suffering physical or mental illness, those who are grieving, lonely or heavy hearted [*especially* _____]. Restore health where You see fit, remember them in Your mercy, and give them patience in their tribulation. Remind them of the goodness of Your grace and Your ever-abiding faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, give to us a right spirit as we receive the Sacrament today. Let it be a spirit of unity, that we may share the bread of life with our neighbours. Thank You for this foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

4th Hymn: 507.