

CONGREGATIONS OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY, BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA
TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD

7 June 2020

Bulletin for Trinity Sunday

ORDER OF SERVICE WITHOUT HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVOCATION

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

HYMN 136 ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH

1
All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again.
O thank Him for His goodness.

2
We praise, we worship Thee, we trust,
And give Thee thanks for ever,
O Father, that Thy rule is just
And wise, and changes never.
Thy boundless power o'er all things reigns,
And done is what Thy will ordains;
'Tis well Thou art our ruler.

3
O Jesus Christ, our God, and Lord,
Begotten of the Father,
O Thou who hast our peace restored,
And Thy lost sheep dost gather:
Thou Lamb of God, enthroned on high,
Behold our need, and hear our cry;
Have mercy on us, Jesus.

4
O Holy Ghost, Thou precious gift,
Thou Comforter unailing,
Do Thou with power our souls uplift,
O'er Satan's might prevailing.
Since Christ for us His blood hath shed,
Avert our woes and calm our dread;
We trust in Thee to save us.

THE CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord. **He made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord. **Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

THE INTROIT

**O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth! O set Your glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouths of children and nursing infants You have established strength, because of Your enemies,
that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.**

**When I look at Your heavens, which Your fingers have made, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
what is man, that You should be mindful of him, and the son of man, that You should be concerned about him?
You have made Him lower than the angels for a little while, and You have crowned Him with glory and honour.
You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and even wild animals, the birds of the sky,
and the fish of the sea, which pass through the paths of the seas.**

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

Psalm 8

THE GLORY TO THE FATHER

Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be for evermore. Amen.

THE LORD HAVE MERCY

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

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. 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 are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading for _____ is written in chapter _____ of _____, beginning at verse _____.

After the reading: This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading is written in chapter _____ of _____, beginning at verse _____.

After the reading: This is the Word of the Lord. **Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah.**

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the _____ chapter of the Gospel according to _____, beginning at verse ____.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

After the Gospel: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish for eternity.

This is the true Christian faith, that we worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God without confusing the persons or dividing the divine substance.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is still another, but there is one Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, equal in glory and coequal in majesty.

What the Father is, that is the Son and that is the Holy Spirit;

the Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated;

The Father is unlimited, the Son is unlimited, the Holy Spirit is unlimited;

The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal;

and yet they are not three eternal but one eternal,

just as there are not three who are uncreated and who are unlimited,

but there is one who is uncreated and unlimited.

Likewise the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty,

and yet there are not three who are almighty but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God,
and yet they are not three Gods but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord,
and yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.

For just as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge each person by Himself to be God and Lord,
so we are forbidden by the Christian religion to say that there are three Gods or three Lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten by anybody.

The Son was not made or created, but was begotten by the Father.

The Holy Spirit was not made or created or begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly there is one Father and not three Fathers, one Son and not three Sons, one Holy Spirit and not three Holy Spirits.

And among these three persons none is before or after another, none is greater or less than another,
but all three persons are co-equal and co-eternal, and accordingly, as has been stated above, three persons are to be worshipped in one Godhead and one God is to be worshipped in three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

It is also necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became man,
for this is the right faith, that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at once God and man;

He is God, begotten before the ages of the substance of the Father, and He is man, born in the world of the substance of His mother,

perfect God and perfect man, with reasonable soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father with respect to His Godhead and inferior to the Father with respect to His manhood.

Although He is God and man, He is not two Christs but one Christ:

one, that is to say, not by changing the Godhead into flesh but by taking on the humanity into God,

one, indeed, not by confusion of substance but by unity in one person.

For just as the reasonable soul and the flesh are one man, so God and man are one Christ,

who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose from the dead,

ascended into heaven, is seated on the right hand of the Father, whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all men will rise with their bodies and give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will go into everlasting fire.

This is the true Christian faith.

Unless a man believe this firmly and faithfully, he cannot be saved.

HYMN 139 WE ALL BELIEVE IN ONE TRUE GOD

1	2	3
We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Ever-present help in need, Praised by all the heavenly host, By whose mighty power alone All is made, and wrought, and done.	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 death and agony We are saved from misery.	We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both for e'er proceeds; Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs. Blest and holy Trinity, Praise for ever be to Thee.

SERMON - DECISIONS WE MAKE REGARDING LIFE CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR LIFE Matthew 28:16-20

HYMN 279 HE THAT BELIEVES AND IS BAPTISED

1	2
He that believes and is baptised Shall see the Lord's salvation; Baptised into the death of Christ, He is a new creation; Through Christ's redemption he shall stand Among the glorious heavenly band Of every tribe and nation.	With one accord, O God, we pray: Grant us Thy Holy Spirit Look Thou on our infirmity Through Jesus' blood and merit; O keep us in baptismal grace, Until at last we take our place With all who life inherit.

THE PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. **Amen.**

HYMN 140 HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

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 power, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Saturday, 13 June. It has been decided that since restrictions have been somewhat lifted, the CoC/Sem. Committee meeting set down **WILL GO AHEAD**. It will be held at Trinity Marburg, beginning at 10.00am.

Pastor is proposing a return to normal services beginning **Sunday 12 July**, unless there is a further lifting of restrictions. Until then, he will be offering HC at the following churches using a shortened order of service. Feel free to come along at any time during the following hours:

Sunday, 14 June

Trinity Oakey. Pastor will be present from 9.00-11.30 for HC.

Sunday, 21 June

Our Saviour Lowood. Pastor will be present from 9.00-11.00 for HC.

Sunday, 28 June

Bethlehem Toowoomba. Pastor will be present from 9.00-11.30 for HC.

Sunday, 5 July

St John's Minden. Pastor will be present from 9.00-11.00 for HC.

Sunday, 12 July

9.00am LOWOOD LR

8.30am OAK LR

9.30am GRN LR

8.30am TMBA HC

10.30am AUB HC

Pastor Peter Ziebell, 34 Fitzpatrick Street, Toowoomba 4350

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au

THE HOLY TRINITY

Part of our Gospel for today reads: 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"* (Matthew 28:18-20).

The passage is an altogether remarkable and magnificent one! Jesus clearly identifies Himself as the one God. There is no authority in heaven or on earth that is not in His keeping. Who else can say that but the one, true, and only God? He tells the disciples to teach not what God has commanded, as though He were less than God, but to teach obedience to everything that He has commanded. No one has the right to do that except the one, true, and only God. Additionally, He promises that His presence will abide with them, no matter where they are and no matter how long the world stands. None but the one and only God could make such a promise and be expected to keep it, and yet, when He commands them to baptise, He does not tell them to baptise only in His name or in the name of God, as though God were somehow different from Himself. Baptism is to take place in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But still there is no suggestion that there is more than one God. All three persons are linked inseparably together in the formula for baptism, and yet each person is mentioned as distinct from the other two.

It is in exactly the same way that the Persons are distinguished and yet always together in the rest of the New Testament. Jesus' own incarnation sets the pattern. All three Persons are involved without any hint that there are three gods (Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-35). We see it again at Jesus' baptism, where all three Persons are evident together and yet distinct (Matthew 3:16-17). We see it in the identification of Jesus with the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4, where the Father speaks, the Son is the chosen Servant of the Lord, and the Holy Spirit abides in Him (Matthew 12:18-21).

It is in John's gospel that we see the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit most beautifully spelled out. Always the Persons are distinct and yet always they are one, one in essence, united in will, one in a perfect loving harmony with one another, and one in the burning desire for our salvation. We cannot help but be struck by the beauty of the words that the members of the Trinity speak to and about one another. Read the gospel of John. You can almost see the glow on Jesus' face as He talks about His Father - everything He does, He does out of love for and in obedience to the Father who has sent Him (e.g., John 5:19-38; 8:27-29; 12:23-28, 44-50). No less the Father, when He speaks; He points to the Son as the sole, great object of His delight, to whom all mankind should give heed (e.g., John 12:28; Luke 3:21-22; Mark 9:7). When Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit, it is as though everything was for the glory of the Holy Spirit who comes forth from the Father and the Son (John 16:5-11), and then when the Holy Spirit speaks, who and what does He speak about? The Son! Everything is the Son! He speaks so that we remember and think always about Jesus (John 16:12-15). (Just imagine what life would be like if husbands and wives and friends spoke that way about one another!)

In Acts and in the epistles too we see the same thing. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are spoken of as clearly distinct, not just different names for different activities. Jesus makes a clear distinction between the persons at His ascension in Acts 1:7-8. The Holy Spirit comes as distinct from the Father and the Son at Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. When St. Peter preached as a result of the activity of the Holy Spirit, what is the subject of his sermon? It is the work of all three persons for our salvation (Acts 2:17-39). The Holy Spirit is specifically called God in the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3-4). Typical of St. Paul is his opening address to the Romans in which he speaks of all three persons as distinct (Romans 1:1-7).

And yet with all of these references to the persons as distinct, there is no hint that they are three separate gods. Quite to the contrary, Jesus testifies to the unity of the Godhead in its essence when He declares, *"I and the Father are one"* (John 10:30). He tells Philip, *"Have I been with you for such a long time, and have you not known Me, Philip? The person who has seen Me has seen the Father. How do you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in Me? These Words, which I am telling you, I am not speaking on My own authority, but the Father, who remains in Me, is doing His works. ¹¹ Believe Me, that I am in the Father and that the Father is in Me. Or else, believe because of the works themselves!"* (John 14:9-11). Therefore, if we ask God who He is, the answer that He gives in His Word is that He is one God, in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Anyone who worships a god other than this one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is worshipping a false god.