May 26, 2024 Psa

# **Questions for Further Study**

v1 - Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

How do you "ascribe to the LORD" glory and strength?

v2 - Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

What glory is due his name? (See Exodus 34:6-7; consider context)

How do you "ascribe to the LORD" the glory due his name?

What does it mean to "worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness"? Is David referring to a place? Consider Psalms 24 and 51.

- v10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
  - In the context of this Psalm, what does it mean for you that the LORD sits enthroned over the flood? ... that he is enthroned as King forever?

v11 - The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

In the context of this Psalm, what does it mean for you that the LORD gives strength to his people, that he blesses his people with peace?

Did you hear the thunder? When you hear thunder, what comes to mind? When you hear thunder, what do you feel? Does thunder give you a deep sense of peace, a deep sense that all is well for you? Not if you're watching a horror movie. Then the sound of thunder is a sound of foreboding, trouble is coming. And not if you're hiking up in the mountains. Then the sound of thunder echoing around you sets you on edge waiting for your hair and your skin to tingle. And not if you're a farmer on the eastern plains of Colorado, then the sound of thunder is a sound that has you wondering: "Will this be the storm, the hail-storm that flattens my fields." The sound of thunder doesn't usually give us a sense of peace, does it?

In our lesson, David sings of the sounds of thunder. For David, thunder isn't just a meteorological phenomenon. For David, thunder isn't just a clap of super-charged air. No, for David, thunder is the voice of God. David hears thunder in the west over the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, and David knows

the LORD is there in his power and majesty. David hears thunder in the north, in Lebanon, and David knows the LORD is there in his power and majesty. The thunder sounds, the voice of the LORD sounds, and the cedars of Lebanon - majestic trees a hundred feet tall, majestic trees wider than my wingspan .... The voice of the LORD sounds and the cedars of Lebanon break; the voice of the LORD sounds and those majestic cedars shatter and splinter. The voice of the LORD sounds, the thunder sounds, and mighty Mount Hermon shakes and kicks and jumps like a bucking bronco.

Then David sings the power of lighting. For David here, lighting isn't just a meteorological phenomenon. For David, lighting isn't just a flash of charged ions. For David, lighting is the voice of the LORD slashing and flashing. Slashing and flashing, shaking the desert in the south. Slashing and flashing, the voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests like a tornado.

If you're up north and you hear the voice of the LORD thunder, shaking and breaking your biggest and strongest, what do you say? If you're down south and you see the voice of the LORD flashing and slashing, shaking and stripping life away, what do you say? We know what people sound like when they are shook and shaking, shattered and breaking, don't we? "O God, oh, no." But that's not what we hear from David. That's not what we hear in the temple of the LORD. In the temple of the LORD, instead of "O God, oh, no," we hear; "O LORD, oh, yes!" Instead of "yikes," we hear "wow!" Instead of cursing God, we hear: "Glory!"

"Glory!" As in "Glory to God in the highest!" You know what comes next, don't you? "Glory to God in the highest, and peace, peace to his people on earth." I hear the voice of the LORD thundering in the west and the north, shaking and breaking. I see the voice of the LORD flashing and slashing in the east and the south, shaking and stripping. And what does it feel like? It can feel like we're right there in the middle of it all with the voice of the LORD thundering and flashing and slashing and shaking and breaking all around us. But then, what do we notice? The voice of the LORD thundering and slashing and flashing and shaking and breaking, may be all around us, but it is around us, not against us. Thundering and flashing and slashing around us, but not against us. Shattering and breaking around us, but not against us. Reminds me of Psalm 23. Right after "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me your rod and your staff, they comfort me," the next line - "you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Even when we are surrounded by trouble, he sets us up with blessing." Even when we are surrounded by shaking and breaking, we get to know; "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth." That's right. How does David end his psalm with the voice of the LORD thundering and flashing, shaking and breaking? "The LORD blesses his people with peace."

David knows - the voice of the LORD doesn't just thunder and flash, the voice of the LORD is powerful to bless and save.
When David sang: "The LORD blesses his people with peace," I wonder if he was seeing his priest raise up his hands; I wonder

if he was hearing his priest raise up his voice as the voice of the LORD with the authority of the LORD: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD look on you with favor and give you peace." When David sang: "The LORD sits enthroned as King forever. ... The LORD blesses his people with peace," I wonder if David saw the connection between the voice of the LORD and the Christ. We get to see that connection, don't we? In Christ, we have the Word of the LORD. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." In Jesus, we have God's Word of peace!

In Jesus, we have God's voice of peace.

Are you feeling tired and worn out, overwhelmed? Listen to God's voice of peace invite you: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

- Are you feeling small, treated like you don't matter? Listen to God's voice of peace invite you: "bring the little children to me ... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
- When you hear the voice of God thunder, do you feel a sense of guilt and fear, dark foreboding: "God is going to get me"? Remember the darkness of the cross, and listen to how God's voice of peace has you forgiven: "My body for you; my blood for you for the forgiveness of your sins."
- When you see the voice of God slash and flash and you feel shaken on edge, listen to God's voice of peace: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me."

- When your world feels shook and shaken, broke and broken, listen to God's voice of peace: "In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back, and take you to be with me, that you may be where I am."
- That's right, when you hear the voice of the LORD thunder, when you see the voice of the LORD flash and slash, when you feel the voice of the LORD shake you, and you wonder: "how will it all turn out?" listen for the voice of peace from Jesus, from his throne in heaven: "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

So, the next time you hear the thunder and see the lightning, instead of just seeing and hearing storms around us and storms against us, remember the voice of the LORD. Instead of wondering on edge "now what?" we get to join the saints and angels in the temple of God - "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth!" Amen.

# THE SERVICE

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we see or experience suffering and trouble and it can be easy to think: "God isn't," or God is against," or "God is judging." It can be tempting to think that the best course of action is to avoid and escape all trouble and suffering and to stay our own way of thinking and life.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we celebrate Trinity Sunday – acknowledging and declaring there is a God we answer to, and that God is Triune, the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And we see God's love, even in suffering and trouble, even when he calls us to leave our thinking and life for his thinking and life.

## **OPENING HYMN**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" Hymn 483

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, blessèd Trinity!

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.

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.

Holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  ${\mathbb T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

# LORD, HAVE MERCY (Sung)

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

# GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (SUNG)

CW 176

*Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain* 

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain* 

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain* 

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true, immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1–8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings:

With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

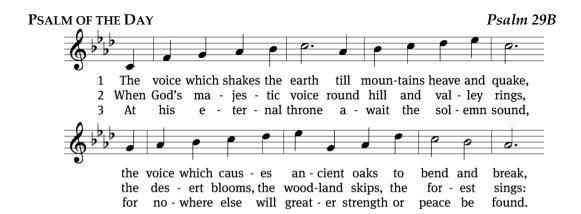
"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 





SECOND READING Romans 8:12–17

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 6:3

Alleluia! Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 3:1–17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ!

# A CONFESSION OF FAITH FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

This creed is named after St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It was prepared to assist the Church in combating two errors that undermined Bible teaching. One error denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth. It declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without saving faith.

The section of the Athanasian Creed included here is the portion that confesses the Bible's teaching about the Triune God. This portion serves as a very fitting confession of faith for Trinity Sunday. A translation of the entire text of the Athanasian Creed may be found on pages 284-285 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

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

Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith: / We worship one God in three persons / and three persons in one God, / Without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

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

yet they 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; yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

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

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord,

so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone. /
The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone. /
The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, /
but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; / none is greater or inferior, /
But all three persons are coequal and coeternal,

so that, in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God, and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" Hymn 570

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death. All who confide in him alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; his Son with saving grace is nigh. His Spirit in the Word declares that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives the sins that you have done. You're justified by Jesus' blood; baptized, you are a child of God.

If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!

Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessèd Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

SERMON Psalm 29

## **OFFERING**

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Triune God, you are the one eternal God, whose name we praise forever. We would not have known you if you had not revealed yourself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons, yet one God. Remove from us all doubt and grant us humble faith as we contemplate this high and holy mystery.

Enlighten and empower us to worship you as the triune God, the holy Trinity.

God our Father, whatever good is in us, whatever good things we have, and whatever good we do comes from you alone. In you we live and move and have our being.

Open our eyes to see the gifts you provide every day purely out of your own love and care.

Lord Jesus our Savior, you came into our world to make the Father known to us. You joined yourself to us by taking on our humanity and brought us back to God by shedding your blood. In love you walked the way of suffering and carried the wrath of God that we deserved because of our sins. Help us believe that all you did and all you endured you did to rescue us and set us free.

In the bright new hope of your resurrection teach us to offer our lives in praise to God and love to our neighbor.

Creator Spirit, you breathed into us new life by the power of the gospel, opened our eyes to see the light of your grace, and filled our minds with the clear sound of your voice. Through Word and sacrament lead us to understand more completely how broad and deep and high is the love of God in Christ Jesus. Firm up our resolve to do battle with Satan and sin. In every weakness be our strength, that we may show ourselves to be God's children: faithful in prayer, constant in hope, and fervent in love.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Holy Trinity, you are the God of glory, the God of grace, and the God of all comfort.

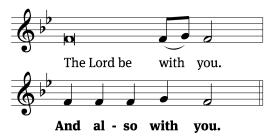
We rejoice to call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and praise your holy name forever. Amen.

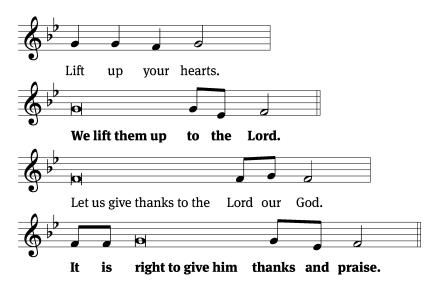
## LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

# THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.) (Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)





It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever in perfect unity with you and the Holy Spirit as one God and one Lord. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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, hosanna in the highest!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

# JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" Hymn 557

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, with exultation springing, and, with united heart and voice and holy rapture singing, proclaim the wonders God has done, how his right arm the vict'ry won. How dearly it has cost him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; death brooded darkly o'er me. Sin was my torment night and day; in sin my mother bore me. Yet deep and deeper still I fell; life had become a living hell, so firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works availed me naught, no merit they attaining; my will against God's judgment fought, no hope for me remaining. My fears increased till sheer despair left only death to be my share and hell to be my sentence.

But God beheld my wretched state before the world's foundation, and, mindful of his mercies great, he planned for my salvation. A father's heart he turned to me, sought my redemption fervently; he gave his dearest treasure.

He spoke to his beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of my crown, and bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; slay bitter death for them that they may live with you forever."

The Son obeyed his Father's will, was born of virgin mother, and, God's good pleasure to fulfill, he came to be my brother. No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a servant's form like mine he bore to lead the devil captive.

To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me, I am your rock and castle. Your ransom I myself will be; for you I strive and wrestle. For I am yours, your friend divine, and evermore you shall be mine; the foe shall not divide us.

"The foe will shed my precious blood, me of my life bereaving; all this I suffer for your good; be steadfast and believing. Life will from death the vict'ry win; my innocence shall bear your sin, and you are blest forever.

"Now to my Father I depart, the Holy Spirit sending and, heav'nly wisdom to impart, my help to you extending. He will a source of comfort be, teach you to know and follow me, and in all truth will guide you.

"What I on earth have lived and taught be all your life and teaching; so shall my kingdom's work be wrought and honored in your preaching. Take care that no one's man-made laws should e'er destroy the gospel's cause; this final word I leave you."

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

# **CLOSING HYMN**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymn 617

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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