

True or False? “We teach a false, made up god. The words Triune and Trinity aren’t in the Bible. The Trinity, the Triune God, is make-believe, a figment of Christian imagination and invention.” How do you answer - True or False? How about True and False! True - the words Triune and Trinity aren’t in the Bible. But the teaching isn’t just a figment of imagination and invention; the teaching of the Trinity, our Triune God, is in the Bible, without a doubt.

How so? Let’s take a look. First, Scripture clearly teaches that God is one, and that there is only one true God. In the Old Testament, Moses declared: **"Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one."** In a world that thought there were many gods, through Isaiah, God spoke up and out against the thinking of the world: **"This is what the Lord says -- I Am the First and I Am the Last; apart from Me there is no god."** Because there is only one God, God has room for only one god - one god in this world and one god in your heart - **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."** - There is only one true God. Not a different god for each different skin color; not a different god for each religion -- just one God.

And yet our one God is three persons. We are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. One God; three persons. Three in One -- our Tri-une God. We confess that faith; we confess the Triune God each week; but how the Triune God works can really bend our mind out of shape.

Today Paul shows us the three persons of our Triune God. He doesn't try to explain our three-in-one God. He does something better for us - he shows our three-in-one God working together for us.

Since God created this world and the human race ruined it with sin, during the last 6000 years, mankind has invented well over 6000 different gods. In the days of the Greeks and Romans people thought there was a council of gods. A chief god with his wife god and children gods and uncle and aunt gods, whatever. This council of gods would have to answer to the chief god; and it worked about as well as our Springfield. The gods would lie, steal, cheat, backstab, whatever it took to get their way. The gods were generally selfish, jealous, and power-hungry.

Today the world has a different idea about a "family of gods." People say: "There's Jesus and Allah and Buddha and whoever else, but they're really just the same god going by different names." That's nonsense; not only do they have different names, they teach opposite things and promise opposite ways to heaven. When a friend does that to you - says one thing to you and says the opposite to someone else ... do you trust him? Do you know where you stand with her? Your God - the only true God - isn't double or triple minded; he isn't double or triple tongued. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - three persons in one God, working together - for the same goal, on the same plan, for you.

Paul shows us the Father, and where we stand with the Father. **"We have peace with God. ... We have the way to God's love. We stand in God's love."** What does that mean for us? When we're in trouble, when we're in need, we can pray, "Our Father who art in heaven," confident that God the Father wants to hear our prayer, and he wants to answer our prayer in the best way for us.

And when we hear God speak, “thou shalt do this, thou shalt not do that,” we can be sure that our Father is not a bossy tyrant looking to push people around, taking out his frustration on us, but he is a loving Father watching out for his children, marking off the danger spots in life and pointing us to the way of peace and love.

And when we wrong God, fight God, shame God, we can confess our sins, "Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful," when we admit that blood-chilling truth that we deserve God's "punishment both now and in eternity," we can confess with the confidence that our Father has promised peace and forgiveness for us.

How can we ... how can we who have run away from the Father, and fought and shamed the Father, now have his peace and love? Paul shows us the answer in Jesus Christ. **"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."** We stand in God's love through Jesus. How does Jesus make the difference? Paul says we have been justified. That word “justified” doesn’t mean that God decided we were justified in our sin, that we had good excuse or good reason to sin, that our sin was and is justified OK. No, that word “justified” means that the judge of heaven and earth has declared his verdict for you, "NOT GUILTY."

Not because you have good excuses; not because you have enough good in you and your life to balance out the bad. No, you are declared NOT GUILTY because Jesus, the Son of God himself, stood in for you to make you holy and right before God. He stood in for you with his perfect life. He stood in for you with his death on the cross. By his death on the cross, he paid for your crimes against God, with his blood he wiped away all the evidence against you, and with

his perfect life he set your record right by God. Put all that together, with Jesus, you can stand right with God.

To most people that sounds silly, and foolish, and maybe even sick. But here is where Paul shows us the Holy Spirit. Paul says, **"We have been justified through faith ... we stand in the Father's love by faith. ... and God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."** The Son of God taking our place on a cross may sound silly and strange and foolish, but we believe it. We may laugh at UFO's and aliens and messages from outer space; but we believe that there is a God the Father who sent his Son to earth to die in place of us. Yes, we believe that God died for us. Why do we believe that? Some people would say, "because we're weak and gullible." Others might say, "Because we're especially good and godly." The right answer is "Because the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts to God's love."

Without the Holy Spirit, the Bible would be just another book to us. Without the Holy Spirit, we would see little difference between Jesus and the Easter Bunny or Mother Goose. Without the Holy Spirit, we would see the Father as a Santa Claus or a Scrooge depending on whether he gave us what we wanted or not.

But we have the Holy Spirit. And so we see the Father, not as Santa or Scrooge, not as tyrant or boss, but as our loving Father. And we see Jesus, the Son of God, not just as a nice story or even a nice guy, but we see Jesus as God's lamb and our Shepherd, our Lord and Savior. We see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Three Persons, One God - not working cross-ways against each other, but working together as the Triune God, working together - for same goal, on the same plan, for you. Amen! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

June 11 & 12, 2022

NEW MORNING PRAISE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... most of our world doesn't seem to care who God is or whether there is a god.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we are blessed to know who the true God is and to consider the greatness of his Being – Our Triune God, the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Three Persons in One God.

OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Hymn 483

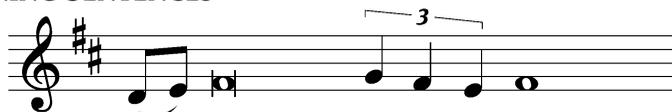
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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.

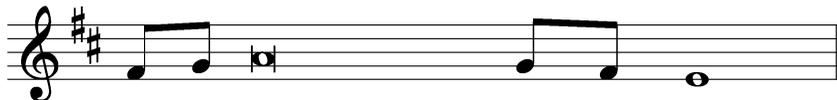
Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

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!

OPENING SENTENCES



O Lord, o-pen my lips.



And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Hasten to save me, O God.



O Lord, come quickly to help me.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Come, O come, let us wor - ship.

COME, O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the mountains high,
 You are the God whom we call our own,

Refrain

you made the seas and the dry land.
 we are the flock that you shepherd.

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

Numbers 6:22–27

The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

““The LORD bless you
 and keep you;
 the LORD make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you;
 the LORD turn his face toward you
 and give you peace.””

“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 8A

Refrain



O LORD, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Tone



When I consider your heavens, the work of your / fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have / set in place,
what is a human being that you are mind- / ful of him,
a Son of Man that you / care for him? *Refrain*

You have made him a little lower than the / angels
and crowned him with glory and / honor.
You made him ruler over the works / of your hands;
you put everything un- / der his feet.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1–5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

John 16:12–15

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

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 132-133 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

“Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”

Hymn 586

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and make our hearts your place of rest;
come with your grace and heav’nly aid,
and fill the hearts which you have made.

To you, the Counselor, we cry, to you, the gift of God most high,
the fount of life, the fire of love, the soul’s anointing from above.

In you, with graces sevenfold, we God’s almighty hand behold
while you with tongues of fire proclaim to all the world his holy name.

Your light to ev’ry thought impart, and shed your love in ev’ry heart;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

Drive far away our wily foe, and your abiding peace bestow;
with you as our protecting guide, no evil can with us abide.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, and you, from both, as Three in One
that we your name may ever bless and in our lives the truth confess.

Praise we the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, with them One,
and may the Son on us bestow the gifts that from the Spirit flow!

SERMON

HYMN

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Hymn 953

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they 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.

You are King of glory, Christ, Son of God, yet born of Mary,
for us sinners sacrificed, on the cross our sins did carry;
first to break the bars of death, you have opened heav'n to faith.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one, undivided God we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

PRAYER AND 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.

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.

The Lord grant you peace for all your days.

A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

"May the Peace of God"

Hymn 929

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
 and the grace of Christ the risen Son,
 and the fellowship of God the Spirit
 keep our hearts and minds within his love. *Refrain*

And to him be praise for his glorious reign
 from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
 We declare the name of the Lamb once slain –
 Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
 and this grace which makes us what we are,
 and this fellowship of his communion
 make us one in spirit and in heart. *Refrain*

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