

Ever gotten yourself in trouble with someone? Silly question, isn't it? We've all gotten ourselves into trouble. We've gotten ourselves into trouble with mom. We've gotten ourselves in trouble with dad. We've gotten ourselves in trouble with a teacher, with a boss. We've gotten ourselves in trouble with the one we love. We all remember some time we got ourselves into trouble, don't we? And what seems to be too often true? If we got in trouble with mom, that meant we were in trouble with dad. If we got in trouble with the teacher, we got in trouble with mom and dad. When we get ourselves in trouble, it seems we get ourselves outnumbered in trouble, with trouble united against us.

Do you remember the moment you found out you were in trouble? The sick feeling inside. The tight feeling. Your heart pounding. A sense of hopelessness, helplessness. That's where the Pentecost crowd was - cut to the heart. They were just now realizing what they had done. "We killed the One who was our way out of this mess. Jesus was right and we killed him. Jesus was the Savior we were waiting for ... and we killed him. Jesus was the Savior, the Messiah God had promised ... and we killed him. We killed Jesus ... and now he's with God getting power from God, working that power in ways that look and sound like the end of the world. We're in trouble with Jesus, that means we're in trouble with God, deep, deep trouble with God."

Do people understand or appreciate that anymore? That it's not good to cross God? What I just said is part of the problem, isn't it? It's not just "not good" to cross God, it's damning to cross God! That Pentecost crowd was just beginning to get it: "We have turned God against us! We have turned our Savior against us!"

Do people today understand what it means to cross God? I think we'd say "no." Do we understand what it means to cross God? God says: "no!" And we say: "It's not that big a deal. Everybody else is doing it. It's my life; I can do what I want." God says: "Do!" And we say: "No, I don't have time. No, I've got my things I need to do." We get caught and instead of being cut to the heart: "What shall we do?" we blame and excuse, lie and deny, and reject God's right to be God - "It's their fault. I couldn't help it. It's my life; I can do as I want." Sound familiar? And what happens to Jesus in all the blaming and excusing? Jesus is pushed off to the side. That's right, we push Jesus off to the side. The crowd on Pentecost was just beginning to realize what that meant. "We've crossed Jesus and that means we've crossed God." So what's the answer when you've crossed Jesus and you're waiting for God to drop the hammer of judgment?

Listen to Peter. **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."** Instead of blaming, excusing, denying ... instead of arguing with God, repent - turn to the God you have crossed. In baptism, Jesus has washed your sin away so he sees you holy and sinless; he sees you as fit and right to be his! Washed clean and right with Jesus, in baptism, God the Father adopts you as his child and gives you his Spirit. In baptism, the Spirit makes you alive ... he makes you new with the life and the heart of God in you.

Now some might say, "Not so fast there. Baptism can't save; baptism can't forgive. Only Jesus can save; only Jesus can forgive." And what do we say? "It is Jesus who is at work in baptism. Baptism isn't our work. In baptism, Jesus takes the forgiveness he earned at the cross, the forgiveness he bought with his blood, and he applies it

to you. In baptism, Jesus takes his Easter life - alive with God! - and he applies it to you. Baptism isn't some alternate way around Jesus. Baptism is Jesus applying his life and death, his forgiveness and holiness to you as yours.

Some might say, "How can baptism do all that; it's just water." And what do we say? "No. It's not just plain water. It is water used by God's command and connected with God's promise. Baptism isn't just plain water. Baptism has God's Word at work, and that means God is at work in baptism."

The words sound so simple - "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The words sound so simple but they come with the power and promise of the Triune God. The Father calls you his child and gives you his Spirit. The Son washes you clean and forgiven, covers you with his holy rightness, and gives you his Spirit. And what does the Spirit do? The Spirit enlightens us; the Spirit puts it into our heads and hearts what God is doing for us. He connects you with God. He makes you alive with God to live and believe as a child of God. He is God's guarantee that God will keep his promise to you - all the way to heaven.

Do you see why this lesson is such a great fit for Trinity Sunday? It's not just that if you're on the outs with Jesus, you're in trouble with the Father and the Spirit. But we see the Father and the Son working together - the Son working for his Father, the Father supporting and empowering his Son. We see the Son and the Spirit working together in baptism. We see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - three persons all working together as one God.

And what happens? The Jesus who took on the worst of this world, the Jesus who was crushed and cursed by God for your sin and

mine, that Jesus is alive with God, powered by God, authorized by God to make this promise: **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** And what do we see? People who wanted Jesus out of their lives, turn to Jesus. People who had turned God against them, are now saved by God. And the church grows.

That’s the way your God worked on Pentecost nearly 2000 years ago, and that’s the way your God works today. So the next time you see yourself in trouble with God, see what God has for you in baptism. The next time you see Christ’s church looking too small, too puny for what we’re facing, look at what your Triune God worked on Pentecost. No matter what trouble we may have gotten ourselves into, no matter what trouble we are facing, we don’t have to see ourselves in trouble, we get to see ourselves together - together with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - the God who saves and grows his church! Amen.

June 14 & 15, 2025

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we have all experienced "getting in trouble" with someone. We have all developed various defensive ways to cope - blaming, excusing, lying, denying ... apologizing, appeasing ... running, hiding

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we celebrate Trinity Sunday, the weekend our worship reminds us who our God is - the Triune God - Father Son, and Holy Spirit. And we rejoice to hear God's way to get out of the trouble we got ourselves into with God. We rejoice - God's way is so much better than blaming and excusing, appeasing and pleasing, running Thank you, Lord!

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!

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

CW 189

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.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY - SUNG

CW 190

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 191

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

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.

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

Acts 2:22-37

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.” ’

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

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

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 51D sts. 1-2, 4



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
 2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
 4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
 soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace
 judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
 and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your
 and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
 judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.
 hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

SECOND READING

Acts 2:37-41

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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 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

“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

Hymn 680

Baptized into your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
among your saints, your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin, your Spirit now shall live within.

My loving Father, there you took me to be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me the fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me when threat’ning clouds around I see.

My faithful God, you fail me never; your promise surely will endure.
O cast me not away forever if words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled; forgive, lift up, restore your child.

All that I am and love most dearly — receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely; help me your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own serve any will but yours alone.

SERMON

Acts 2:22-41

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, we praise you as the one true God. We thank you for revealing yourself to us so we can know you 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 our triune God.

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.

Open our eyes to see how we can use your gifts for your glory and the good of your people.

Lord Jesus our Savior, we thank you for coming into our world to make the Father known to us. We are amazed that you would join yourself to us by taking on our humanity; we are amazed at how you walked the way of suffering and carried the curse of God to pay for our sin and bring us back to God. Help us believe that all you did and all you endured you did to rescue us and set us free.

Fill us with your resurrection hope and life so that we live and love like you - serving and sacrificing for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Creator Spirit, we thank you for breathing into us new life by the power of the gospel, opening our eyes to see the light of your grace, and filling 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.)

Preface - Sung

CW 199

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, 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

CW 202

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

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us 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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 - SATURDAY

“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.

CLOSING HYMN - SUNDAY

“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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