

Historic Scripture Lessons for the Feast of the Holy Trinity

Old Testament

Isaiah 6:1-6 NIV In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "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." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Epistle

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the Mind of the LORD? Or who has been His counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Historic (& 3-Year) Gospel

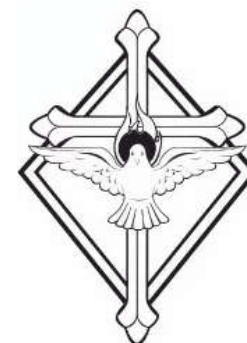
John 3:1-15 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher Who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You

are doing if God were not with Him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at My saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 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." 9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. 10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? 11 I tell you the truth, We speak of what We know, and We testify to what We have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the One Who came from heaven - the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

3-Year Gospel Adds

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✱ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✱ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

May 27th, 2018 ✱ Trinity Sunday ☺ *The Holy Trinity*

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **Have a blessed week!**

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) hymnal p.5.

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	246 (4v)	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Psalm 104	Ps.104 "3v"	Lord, Send Out Your Spirit And Renew... ↗
Hymn of the Day	250 (4v)	Holy God We Praise Thy Name
Offertory Verse	244 (4v)	<i>Sing v.1,4 Glory Be to God the Father...</i>
Third Hymn	237 (4v)	All Glory Be to God on High
Closing Hymn	240 (3v)	Father Most Holy, Merciful and Tender

☞ Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Trinity Sunday ☜

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 9:1-27
Acts 3:1-21	Acts 4:1-37	Acts 5:1-42	Acts 6:1-15	Acts 7:1-60	Acts 8:1-40

PROPERs for TRINITY SUNDAY (START OF ORDINARY TIME) MAY 27TH 2018

INTROIT Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us. O LORD, our LORD, how excellent is Your Name in all the earth! ...from Psalm 8

COLLECT Almighty God, by Your grace alone we are called into Your Kingdom, to confess the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the True Unity, we beseech You, that You would keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live, and reign, one true God, now and forever. **C: ♫ A---men.**

PSALM 104 ♪ Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth;
Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth.

GRADUAL C: Blessed are You, O LORD, You behold the deep, and You dwell between the cherubim. Blessed are You, O LORD, in the firmament of Heaven, and greatly to be praised forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed are You, O LORD God of our Fathers, and greatly to be praised and glorified forever. Alleluia! ...Ps.136

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T.	Isaiah 6:1-6	(The Triune) God calls Isaiah to be a prophet.
Epi.	Romans 11:33-36	Paul praises (Triune) God's Wisdom & Knowledge.
Gos.	John 3:1-15	Jesus tells Nicodemus: Be born of the Spirit.

PSALM 104 ♪ Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth;
Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth.

Verse 1. ♪ O bless- the Lord, my soul, – O Lord, how great are Your ways!
How ma-ny are Your works-, O Lord, – The earth is full of Your glory!

C: ♪ Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth; (Repeat)

Verse 2. ♪ You take back Your Spirit; They die, – Return-ing to- the dust.
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, – You-renew the face of the earth.

C: ♪ Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth; (Repeat)

Verse 3. ♪ May the glory of God be forever, – May the Lord rejoice in His Works!
May my thoughts and my deeds be pleasing to Him, – I find my joy in the Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, send out Your Spirit, – And renew the face of the earth; (Repeat)

**#244, 1. Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!**

**4. Glory, blessing, praise eternal! Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, power, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings! A--men.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths.	Sad but faithfull
Alex Gourley (Ilene)	Alex had a stent surgery, is home recovering	
Jim & Elma Hendricks	Jim & Elma are packing and moving to Columbia, SC	
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing	
Jon Sawyer (Andrea)	(Heart) Still recovering at home but able to work	
June Weyenberg	June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Bev & Don Wienke	(Substitute for?) Mary Ford
Treaters	Bev & Don Wienke	

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	20 / (18)	23 / 20
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	6	7
Last Sunday Offering & YTD	\$.	YTD Total \$.,

Calendar of Events		
Today, May 27 th	8:30 am	Bible Study Themes & Keys: Angel of LORD
Trinity Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Communion)
(End Festival Half)	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!
Sunday, 6/3	8:30 am	Bible Study Themes & Keys: Circumcision
Trinity-1 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
(Heavenly Riches)	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892.

May 20th ▲ ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018



The ELS has always had a commitment to Lutheran elementary education. It has been questioned if our present synod would ever have been organized if it had not been for the support of those who had been educated in Christian day schools. We may say that we owe our present existence as a Biblical-teaching synod in large part to the Christian day school. Today 18 ELS congregations operate Lutheran elementary schools or preschools for 1,329 students.

Next Sunday 6/3 **Trinity-1 Sunday (p.15, L.S.) 16 Ps.104 400 441.3-4 399 244**

Prayer of the Church for Trinity Sunday:

(St. Patrick's Breastplate)

I bind to myself today the power of an invocation of the Trinity:

I believe in the Trinity in Unity, the Creator of the Universe.

I bind to myself today

The power of God to guide me, The wisdom of God to teach me,

The eye of God to watch over me, The ear of God to hear me,

The word of God to give me speech,

The hand of God to protect me, The way of God to go before me,

The shield of God to shelter me, The host of God to defend me,

Against the snares of demons,

Against the temptations of vices, Against the lusts of nature,

Against everyone who meditates injury to me,

Whether far or near, with few or with many.

I have set around me all these powers

Against every hostile savage power directed against me,

Against the incantation of false prophets,

Against the black laws of heathenism,

Against the false laws of heresy,

Against the deceits of idolatry,

Against the enchantment of witchcraft and satanic arts,

Against all knowledge which binds the soul of man.

Christ protect me today

Against poison, Against burning,

Against drowning, Against death wound,

That I may receive an abundant reward.

Christ with me, Christ before me,

Christ behind me, Christ within me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ at my right, Christ at my left, Christ at home,

Christ traveling by land, Christ traveling by water.

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

I bind to myself today the power of an invocation of the Trinity:

I believe in the Trinity in Unity, the Creator of the Universe.

Salvation is of the Lord, Salvation is of the Lord, Salvation is of

Christ: **May Your Salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Amen.**

The Athanasian Creed and Trinity Sunday

The Athanasian Creed is one of the three "ecumenical" creeds, meaning all Christians should be able to confess these creeds together. The first Lutherans included the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds in the Book of Concord as a sign that, together with all Christians, Lutherans say these creeds as their own confession of faith. At the very least, we confess the Athanasian Creed together in church on Trinity Sunday.

The Athanasian Creed "is different from the other two creeds in that it is not as much an 'I believe' statement of faith as it is an hymnic description of the faith, 'we worship one God ...' " (Rev. Dennis Marzolf, *Lutheran Sentinel*, June 2011, p. 3). In this creed, we say that "whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this [faith] cannot be saved."

Paragraphs 38-39 (out of 40) sometimes trouble Lutherans: "At whose coming all will rise again with their bodies and will give an account of their own works. And they that have done good will enter into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into everlasting fire."

But these words come from Jesus' own words:

John 5:28-29: ²⁸ "Do not marvel at this: for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

Putting them together: Jesus said, "**Those who have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life.**" The creed says, "*They that have done good will enter into life everlasting.*" Jesus said, "**Those who have done evil will come forth to the resurrection of condemnation.**" The creed says, "*They that have done evil will enter into everlasting fire.*"

If we have questions about this statement that "**those who have done good**" enter into everlasting life in heaven, and "**those who have done evil**" go to "*everlasting fire*" in hell, we bring our questions to Him.

Jesus answers us with His own words in John 3. Jesus says it very clearly in the gospel for Pentecost Monday:

John 3:16: ¹⁶ "Whoever believes in [the only-begotten Son] shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:18: ¹⁸ "He who believes in [the Son] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Conclusion: In the Athanasian Creed, "they that have done good [who] will enter into life everlasting" are those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, and "they that have done evil [who] will enter into everlasting fire" are the unbelievers and the unrepentant.

Today on this special **Trinity Sunday** we use this special (Athanasian) **Creed**:

ATHANASIAN CREED (*Confession of Faith*) **We say in turns, responsively:**

Pastor: 1. Whosoever will be saved, shall, above all else it hold the (Christian) faith.

Congregation: 2. Which Faith, except it be kept whole & undefiled, without doubt, one will perish eternally.

3. And the Christian Faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.

Cong: 4. Neither confusing the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.

5. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.

6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all One, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.

7. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.

8. The Father Uncreated, the Son Uncreated, and the Holy Spirit Uncreated.

9. The Father Infinite, the Son Infinite, and the Holy Spirit Infinite.

10. The Father Eternal, the Son Eternal, and the Holy Spirit Eternal.

11. And yet they are not three eternals, but One Eternal.

12. Just as there are not three uncreated, nor three infinities, but One Uncreated, and One Infinite.

13. Likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son is Almighty, and the Holy Spirit is Almighty.

14. And yet they are not three almighties, but One Almighty.

15. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.

16. And yet they are not three gods, but One God.

17. Likewise the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord.

18. And yet there are not three lords, but One Lord.

19. For, as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, – So are we forbidden by the Christian faith to say there be three gods or three lords. Δ

MEN: 20. The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

WOMEN: 21. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten.

M: 22. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

W: 23. So there is One Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; One Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

24. And in this Trinity none is before or after another, none greater or less than another;

25. But all three Persons are co-eternal together, and co-equal. So that in all things, as said before, the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

26. Whoever will be saved, is compelled thus to think of the Holy Trinity.

27. Furthermore, it is necessary for everlasting salvation that one also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

28. For the right Faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

*29. God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds;
And Man, of the substance of His mother, born into the world.*

30. Perfect God and perfect Man, of a rational soul and human flesh subsisting.

*31. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead,
and inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood.*

32. Who, although He is God and Man, yet He is not two, but One Christ.

33. One, not by changing of the Godhead into Flesh, but by taking the Manhood into God.

34. One indeed, not by confusion of substance, but by one-ness of Person.

35. For just as the rational soul and flesh is one Man, so God and Man is One Christ.

**ALL: 36. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into Hell,
Rose again the Third Day from the dead.**

37. He ascended into Heaven, He is seated on the Right Hand of the Father, God Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**38. At whose coming all will rise again with their bodies,
and will give an account of their own works.**

**39. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting,
and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.**

40. This is the universal Christian faith; whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this, cannot be saved. Amen. Δ

THE ATHANASIAN CREED + THE HOLY TRINITY

The natural knowledge of God tells us only that there is a god, something that virtually everyone acknowledges, even if it is only a “prime cause” or “nature.” We only know the living God, the God who is really there, because he has chosen to reveal Himself through the inspired Word given to Adam and Eve and to their descendants, and then written by the Prophets in the Old Testament and by the Apostles and Evangelists in the New Testament.

Because of the deceit of the devil and of the sinful nature of man, God is continually misrepresented and the faith of people is turned away from the true God. In the Old Testament, God identified Himself as the One who had revealed Himself to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and as YAWEH, (or Jehovah), I AM. This is the unique name He revealed as His own. Interchangeably with this He revealed Himself also in the Spirit of God, and in the Angel of the Lord. For this reason the first-century Jews who accepted Christ as their Messiah had no difficulty understanding God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Because of the centrality of Christ as God the Son in God’s work to save us, early Christians confessed that Jesus is at the same time true man, as well as God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and yet not three Gods, but One. Jesus Identified himself also with YAWEH, declaring, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” At various times false teachers arose who denied different aspects of the reality of God, especially the divinity of Christ. In response, statements of belief called creeds were written to clearly state what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible.

While we grow in our understanding of the God in whom we believe, the important thing is that our faith is in the God who is really there. For that reason to deny what God has said about Himself is to put our faith in something other than the God who is there – a figment of our imagination.

The Athanasian Creed is the most extensive of the three ecumenical or catholic (meaning “universal,” accepted by all Christian churches) creeds. Being written after the year 600 (and after many heresies had been refuted) this creed contrasts such false teaching with the truth. This creed accentuates the fact that our faith rests in the God who really did create us, redeem us, and call us to faith through the gospel, and that only such faith is a saving faith. It clearly teaches that faith in any other god leads to damnation.

The Athanasian Creed is traditionally confessed in the divine service on Trinity Sunday, because of its exhaustive expression of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

TRINITY-B John 3:1-17"(BLESSED BE THE) HOLY PARADOX!" 05.27.18 OSL

PARADOX (DICTIONARY) A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true. **Example:** "And the (universal) faith is this, that we worship One God in three Persons, and three Persons in One God, neither confusing the Persons nor dividing the Substance." **Got it?**

INCOMPREHENSIBLE "The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, the Holy Spirit incomprehensible, the whole thing incomprehensible." And that's good, right, and salutary. Any god who fits comprehensively inside your head isn't big enough to be your God anyway.

TRI-UNITY **The Christian faith is built on paradox/es:** God is Three and He is One - a Tri-Unity. Jesus is God and Man - two natures, yet One Person. The Scriptures are God's Word and man's word. As a believer, you are both sinner and saint at the same time.

WARNING! There is danger lurking in these paradoxical waters. The danger is that we turn God into a concept, a mathematical abstraction, something we can tuck safely in a book or a theory or a picture in our minds. A safe God that you bring out for those "special occasions" when you need a little dose of deity. A tame God on a leash for those times when we need a little religion to help us through our troubles.

NO STORY Holy Trinity Sunday is a feast **without a narrative**. **No story.** The best we have is Jesus telling the disciples to Baptize in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost - there are rich historic narratives for these days. But the text behind Holy Trinity Sunday **is a doctrine** not a narrative, a summary of the Mystery of the God **Who made** the Heavens and the earth, the God **Who revealed Himself** to Moses in a burning bush, the God **Who led Israel** out of captivity into freedom; the God made Himself concretely known and **knowable in the Incarnation** of His Son Jesus Christ, the God **Who blows** His Spirit-breath through His Church and **raises** the dead to life.

RELATIONSHIP Holy Trinity is about a **living (& loving) relationship**, communion within God and with God. The Father begets His Son; the Spirit proceeds from Father and Son. **God is never alone, even when He IS alone.** Together as One the undivided holy Trinity creates, redeems, makes holy. Each divine Person doing His personal thing, yet always as One. And you, Baptized "*In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*" enter into the tri-une love and life of God. The Father is your Father. Jesus the Son is your Brother. The Spirit is your Advocate, Guide, and Friend. You are a member of God's family; you live in **triune communion with God** - with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

TRUE RABBI There was a man named **Nicodemus, a rabbi, a Pharisee**, a member of the Sanhedrin. He was about to encounter a divine Paradox in the flesh. Jesus - the Son of God. "*Rabbi, we know You are a*

Teacher Who has come from God. No one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with Him."

BUT(!).... Don't you get just a wee bit suspicious when someone starts a conversation that way? As the praise heaps up, you're waiting for the "but" that comes at the end of the clause. "*You did a really great job with the report last week and corporate couldn't be more thrilled but...*" "*Pastor, I really like your sermons and your bible classes are always interesting but...*" Jesus preempts Nicodemus with a perfect non sequiter. "*Amen. No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he's born again.*"

REBORN The born must be reborn(?!) Again, paradox. Nicodemus has a brain sprain. "*Wait a minute. How can an old man be born again? What's he supposed to do? Enter his mother's womb a second time?*" (In logic they call that an **argumentum ad absurdum** = argue to the point of absurdity.)

H2O & SPIRIT Jesus says, "*Listen up. Let me put it another way. No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he's born of water and Spirit.*" As if that made things any clearer. But wait... Water and Spirit; that's creation talk. **Genesis 1** where the Spirit hovered over the waters of the Deep in creation. Unless you are a new creation, created by water and Spirit, you can't enter the Kingdom.

1ST & 2ND BIRTH/S There's another birth, a new birth from above. The old creation is shot dead. Flesh give birth to flesh. That's your birth from below, what makes you child of Adam. That's the birth that gives birth to a sinner. You know all about that one. You don't need anyone to teach you about that. But that one doesn't get you an entry ticket into the Kingdom of God. Quite the opposite. Not that God isn't involved in that birth. Every birth is the result of God's Word - "*Be fruitful and multiply.*" But that makes children of Adam, not children of God. Your first birth delivers you to death; **your second birth brings you to Life.**

BAPTISM-TALK "*You must be born again,*" Jesus says. Born from above. A spiritual birth through water and the Spirit. Do you hear Baptism talk in that? I hope so. It's like the wind, Jesus says. You hear it, but you can't see it. You see its effects - the leaves rustling through the trees, but you can't get a hold of it. That's how it is with the Spirit and with everyone born of the Spirit. You must hear it and believe it because you can't see it.

(ST.) NICK Of course, that leaves Nicodemus more confused than ever. "*How can this be?*" The teacher of Israel is stumped. The problem is not that Nicodemus isn't a sharp tack. He's plenty smart. He's a rabbi, after all, a Pharisee, a member of the ruling council. He's no dummy. **The problem** goes back to **his first sentence**. He doesn't yet see Jesus for Who Jesus actually is. He sees Jesus as a holy man, a teacher come from God, a miracle worker. Close but no cigar, Nick. Nicodemus **doesn't yet grasp the** (holy) **paradox** - this man standing before him **is God in the Flesh**, the

Second Person of the undivided holy Trinity, God of God, Light of light, true God of true God, eternally begotten of the Father.

SECRET BELIEF Nicodemus is staring at the Word made flesh, the One who would be lifted up for the life of the world. He is the Son, sent in love to save the world by His dying and rising. Nicodemus has no way of knowing or believing that. ...Yet. Somewhere, somehow the **Spirit-wind of God blew on Nicodemus**, the water, Word and Spirit had their way with him. I say that because Nicodemus was already a believer the day Jesus died. Secretly, yes, but a believer. He trusted that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. He along with Joseph of Arimathea arranged to bury Jesus.

IN THE DARK In a way, you and I have an advantage over old Rabbi Nicodemus. He was standing on the threshold between the old and the new, between the prophesy and its fulfillment. He saw the signs, but the pieces of the puzzle weren't yet in place. That's why John mentions that he came to Jesus at night. He was still in the dark, so to speak. The light of Easter had not yet dawned. The Spirit had not yet enlightened him. **We live entirely in the new. Christ has come. Christ has died. Christ has risen from the dead. Christ now reigns.** What was a riddle to Nicodemus is (or *should be*) perfectly clear to us: To be born again from above by water and Spirit is to be baptized into Jesus: *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."*

☺-WIND "The Spirit blows like the wind wherever He pleases." You can't bottle the Spirit up, put him into a box, label and categorize Him. You can only enjoy the refreshing, Heavenly breeze. **The Spirit has blown on you in His good time and place, as it pleased Him.** And it pleases Him that you believe the Word He brings to your ears, that you trust that Jesus' death and life are your life and salvation, that on account of Jesus you can say, *"Our Father."*

(TRUE)GOD'S WAYS Yes, God's **Tri-Unity** is an **incomprehensible Paradox.** That's true. The Athanasian Creed can't even contain it, though it gives it a good try. You and I would never have invented such a God. But on the other hand, remember, **gods we invent are not God.** They are useless idols; gods that sit on the mantle pieces of our lives so we can be spiritual without believing anything. The Lord's ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. He's not the sort of God we would invent for our selves. And for that we are grateful.

GET-IT(!) You don't have to understand someone to be in relationship. Most of us are in relationship with people we don't begin to understand. **How much more with God.** You don't have to understand the Mystery of the undivided Holy Trinity; **only confess and praise Him.** *"Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let's give glory to Him because He showed mercy to us."*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen. SDG

POSSIBLE Prayer of the Church ☺ Feast of Holy Trinity ☺ May 27th 2018

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible) Brief silence

Eternal God, For an increase in devotion for all the saints, for the **faithful proclamation of the Gospel** by all pastors in Christ, for an **end to schism and division** within the Church Militant, and for the proper fear and fervent praise of the Holy Trinity among all those born again from above in Holy Baptism, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For **faithful catechesis** and formation in the faith for our catechumens, both young and old; for a renewed vigor to study God's Word within the congregations of our Synod; for Christ to be fully formed within us; for courage to walk as children of the light; and for strength in the face of temptation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sojourner and stranger, for the persecuted and oppressed, for prisoners and their families, for the enemies of the faith, and for **true repentance of all**, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For thankful hearts, and for the **faithful support of the Church** and the work of the Lord, here and throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the **safety** of all those who travel, and for a time of enjoyment and **refreshment** among all who gather together with family and friends, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the **nations and those who lead** them, for **peace** in the world, for an end to violence and war, and for the remembrance of those who defended our liberty with the cost of their lives, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those troubled in mind and heart, for the grieving in their sorrow, and for all the sick and those who suffer, *[especially OSL Prayer List.]*

Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths. Sad but faithful
Alex Gourley (Ilene)	Alex had a stent surgery, is home recovering
Jim & Elma Hendricks	Jim & Elma are packing and moving to Columbia, SC
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
Jon Sawyer (Andrea)	(Heart) Still recovering at home but able to work
June Weyenberg	June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

(For reverent awe when our lips receive the very Body and Blood of Christ from the Holy Altar,) For the **removal of our guilt and deliverance** from evil, for the strengthening of our love for God and for one another, and for an increase of faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the dead and the Life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All glory, honor and praise be to the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy, Holy, Holy is He Whose Name is majestic in all the earth, through Whom we receive Forgiveness, Life and Salvation. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. **Amen. "Our..."**