

*Liturgy*

First Sunday after Pentecost  
Year A  
Trinity Sunday

GATHERING

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

You have set Your glory above the heavens.

*From the praises of children and infants*

*You have established strength.*

When I consider the heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which You have ordained;

*What are we, that You are mindful of us,  
and that You care for us?*

Yet You have made us a little lower than the angels,  
crowned us with glory and honor,  
and given us dominion over the works of Your hands.

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

– from Psalm 8

*How Great is our God*

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty:  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice.

*Chorus*

How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God;  
And all will see how great,  
How great is our God.

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands:  
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.  
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son;  
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb.

*Bridge*

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing, How great is our God.

You're the name above all names  
You're worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing how great is our God

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Leader:

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,  
**the source of love and life, who creates us.**  
We are gathered to worship Jesus Christ,  
**the risen One, who lives among us.**  
We are gathered to worship the Spirit,  
**the holy fire, who renews us.**  
**To the one true God be praise in all times and places,  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

*LECTIONARY for the first Sunday  
after Pentecost, Year A:*

*Genesis 1:1-2, 4a*

*Psalm 8*

*2 Corinthians 13:11-1*

*Matthew 28:16-20*

*In the liturgical year, the first Sunday after the commemoration of the Day of Pentecost is traditionally devoted to a celebration of the mystery, power, beauty, and community of the triune God. On Trinity Sunday, the focus of the Church is on the Person and work of each member of the Trinity, and on the theological truth that all three Persons exist together throughout all eternity—from all ages past, in the present now, and into eternity future.*

*The lectionary for year A invites us to see these truths in several passages: the Creation account in Genesis reveals the eternal community of the Godhead; the familiar psalm depicts the relationship of the Sovereign God with His children; and the New Testament passages reflect the Trinity in Mathew's narrative of Christ's ascension and in one of Paul's beautiful epistle benedictions.*

*As you read through this liturgy, consider and contemplate the various ways in which the words of the readings and the lyrics of the songs reveal the nature of the triune God and help us to understand—and experience—our relationship with Him and with each other within the community of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*The first Gathering reading, taken from Psalm 8, is set antiphonally for two groups or readers within the congregation. The second, for one reader and the entire congregation, is adapted and reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004 CRC Publications.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

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!  
Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in Heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;  
While in essence only One,  
Undivided God we claim Thee;  
And adoring bend the knee,  
While we own the mystery.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2012 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; based on the ancient hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, (4th C.)  
Transl. Clarence A. Walworth. Hymn tune: *GROSSER GOTT*.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I bind unto myself the name –  
the strong name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same:  
the Three in One and One in Three,  
by whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.**

**Praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.**

– from the *Lorica* of St. Patrick  
(St. Patrick's Breast-Plate; 5<sup>th</sup> C.)

*We use these three verses of this traditional hymn to the triune God here at Gathering, and bring in the doxological verse below, at Sending.*

*Come, Thou Almighty King—another classic hymn to the Trinity—is an alternate choice for Gathering hymn. We used it the sixth week of Easter, when a focus of the liturgy was the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and our participation in that community by the promise of Christ. You will find the fourth, doxological verse of Come, Thou Almighty King below, as a closing to the sung Profession of faith.*

*Music for Ellen's setting of Holy God, We Praise Thy Name is available in the Hymn Settings section of the music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is also available as vocal line with piano accompaniment and as a choral arrangement by request.) This hymn is one whose verses may be chosen and used as doxologies in a variety of contexts. Please see the hymn commentary in the Music Room (Hymn Settings). Here's a link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

*We are using this section of Saint Patrick's ancient hymn to the Trinity as an introduction to our sung profession of faith (below).*

*A lorica is an ancient monastic prayer for protection. The Lorica of Saint Patrick, also commonly known as Saint Patrick's Breastplate, is a Gaelic poem attributed to Saint Patrick. For more information on the composition and background of the Lorica, see the commentary on Be Thou My Vision in the Music Room (Hymn Settings section). Here's a link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

*We Believe (Apostles' Creed)*

*Chorus*

We believe in one true God:  
Father, Spirit, Son;  
One Church, one faith, one Lord of all;  
His kingdom come.

*Verse 1*

We believe in God the Father,  
Almighty Lord of life,  
Creator of the Heavens,  
The earth, the sea, the sky.  
And we believe in Jesus,  
The only Son of God,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Who lived as one of us.

*Verse 2*

We believe that Jesus suffered,  
Was beaten, crucified;  
He died and He was buried,  
Entombed in darkest night.  
The third day rose victorious,  
Ascended into Heav'n,  
Will one day come to judge us,  
The living and the dead.

*Verse 3*

We believe in God the Spirit;  
One church, empow'ered by Him;  
Communion of God's people,  
Forgiveness of our sin;  
Our bodies resurrected  
To everlasting life,  
To worship, love and wonder  
Before the throne of Christ.

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

*Come, Thou Almighty King (verse 4)*

To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be.  
Hence evermore:  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
May we in glory see;  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words and hymn tune public domain. Text: Anonymous.  
Hymn tune: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

*The Profession of Faith is a mostly sung profession on this Trinity Sunday, following the corporate reading from Saint Patrick's Breastplate (above).*

*Alternate choices for a sung profession of faith:*

- Because We Believe  
(CCLI Song #2133379 ©1996 Mother's Heart Music. Jamie Harvill and Nancy Gordon)

- This I Believe (The Creed)  
(CCLI Song #7018338 ©2014 Hillsong Music Publishing. Ben Fielding and Matt Crocker)

*The doxological fourth verse of this classic Trinitarian hymn is a natural and fitting conclusion to the sung Profession of Faith.*

*Ellen's setting of Come, Thou Almighty King is available on request as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard or organ.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,  
He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies  
through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*Brothers and sisters, we have an obligation –  
not to the flesh, but to the Spirit.*

*If, by the Spirit, we are putting to death the misdeeds of the body,  
we will live.*

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

– from Romans 8:11-14

Let us confess our sins to God in the words of this ancient prayer from the early church, the Trisagion, which means “three-times holy.”

**Holy God, Holy and mighty,  
Holy immortal One, Have mercy on us.**

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
**Have mercy on us.**

[Silence]

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

[Silence]

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
**Have mercy on us.**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
Come and listen to me.

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[Silent confessions]

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
**Have mercy on us.**  
**Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayers.**  
**Incline Your ear to us, and grant us Your peace.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Since we have been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have obtained access by faith  
into this grace in which we now stand.

And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

*And this hope does not disappoint us,  
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

– from Romans 5:1-5

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Passing of the Peace*

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

### *All Praise to Him*

All praise to Him, the God of light,  
Who formed the mountains by His might.  
All praise to Him Who names the stars  
That sing His fame in skies afar.  
All praise to Him Who reigns in love,  
Who guides the galaxies above,  
Yet bends to hear our every prayer  
With sovereign power and tender care.

All praise to Him Whose love is seen  
In Christ the Son, the servant King,  
Who left behind His glorious throne  
To pay the ransom for His own.  
All praise to Him Who humbly came  
To bear our sorrow, sin and shame,  
Who lived to die, Who died to rise,  
The all sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to Him whose power imparts  
The love of God within our hearts.  
The Spirit of all truth and peace,  
The fount of joy and holiness.  
To Father, Son, and Spirit now  
Our souls we lift, our wills we bow.  
To You, the Triune God, we raise  
With loving hearts our song of praise.

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## THE WORD

Genesis 1:2 - 2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**

*Our Father in Heaven (sung)*

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,  
Your name is holy, our Father.  
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done  
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,  
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,  
Forgiving of what others owe.  
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,  
We sing the glory be Yours – Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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*Glory Be To God*

To You we bring our hymn of praise: Glory be to God.  
Hearts and hands together raised: Glory be to God.  
Who spoke before the dawn of time: Glory be to God.  
Veil of darkness torn by light: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings:  
“Glory be to God!”  
Th’anthem of the Lord’s redeemed:  
“Glory be to God!”

You purchased captives for Your saints: Glory be to God.  
And opened wide the kingdom gates: Glory be to God.  
You overcame the sting of death: Glory be to God.  
And clothed us in Christ’s righteousness: Glory be to God.

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim:  
“Glory be to God!”  
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain:  
“Glory be to God!”

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.  
(repeat)

Father, Spirit, risen Son: Glory be to God.  
Who was, and is, and is to come: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings:  
“Glory be to God!”  
Th’anthem of the Lord’s redeemed:  
“Glory be to God!”

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim:  
“Glory be to God!”  
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain:  
“Glory be to God!”

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.  
Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.  
Forever and ever. Forever and ever.

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Matt Maher, Kelly Minter, Stuart Townend.

*Music for this setting of the Lord’s Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request.*

*Here’s a link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

*Holy, Holy, Holy* (verse 4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,  
In earth, and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Benediction:

God the Father,  
through the Word and the Holy Spirit,  
created all things.

**He revealed His perfect plan in all creation  
by sending His Son, Jesus Christ,  
the Word made flesh;  
and through the Spirit enables us, His children,  
to share in the life, love and community  
of the blessed Trinity.**

Now, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,  
may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Amen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

– based in part on 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

*A thought about worship...*

“The Christian church . . . has always been committed to a triune experience and understanding of God, but most preachers seldom preach on this subject. The discipline of addressing the congregation once a year on the meaning of triune faith and worship is helpful and necessary. . . . Christians need to know . . . the spiritual understanding of the self made in the image of God and the significance of Christian community that mirrors the eternal, communal relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 175).

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12;  
Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15;  
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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