

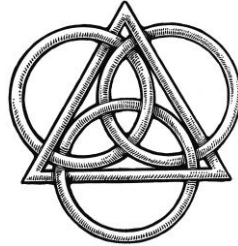


ABOUT THE PROPERS

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



First Sunday after Pentecost Holy Trinity Sunday June 7, 2020



We Believe in the Triune God

“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” (Athanasian Creed). The third and longest of the ecumenical creeds underscores the importance of this Sunday’s message. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is beyond our comprehension, yet it is proclaimed in Scripture and believed by Spirit-wrought hearts of faith. Thus, it is central to our salvation. We believe in the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The height, depth, and breadth of our God gives us peace as we travel towards eternity. Having received forgiveness and life from the Father through the Son and by the Spirit, we join with the angels in praising the blessed Trinity, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!”

The Propers

The Propers are those portions of the service that change (or, are “proper” to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin ordo, which means “regular order”) portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord’s Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.

First Lesson¹ Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Although the Bible ascribes certain works to each person (the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier), Augustine’s rule still stands that the external acts of the Godhead are shared. The Father created, the Son created, the Spirit created. The Father sanctifies, the Son sanctifies, the Spirit sanctifies. The only acts not shared by the persons are the internal works which are paternity, filiation, and procession. So when we read the account of creation here, we see all three persons of the Godhead at work. We read verse 1 in the context of Psalm 104 and John 1. God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—created a home for the crown of his creation. The Trinity was speaking to itself and of itself in the amazing words that displayed God’s intent for humankind: Let us make man in our image. The Triune God planned for creation’s crown to conform to His image. When Adam fell, it was the Triune God who resolved to restore man to the perfection in which he had been created. This plan to restore holiness to the world would involve all three persons to choose us, to redeem us, to call us to himself.

Second Lesson¹ 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

The grace, the love, the fellowship. That is the story of the Trinity in the lives of believers. Grace is that which we don’t deserve; God’s love is what drove it; our fellowship with God and with each other is its result. We trust in God the Father, who fills us with hope. We trust in the Lord Jesus Christ: Lord—the one who bought us; Jesus—the name he carried here on earth when he came to save us; Christ—the office he filled for our salvation. We trust in the Holy Spirit, who called us by his power and by that same power causes us to overflow with hope and love for our fellowman.

Gospel of the Day¹ Matthew 28:16-20

On a mountain in Galilee they met a man who had died, but lived again. Some of his disciples doubted, but the ones that believed his word bent the knee and worshipped this man as God. If what this man said was true, then God had died for them; God had risen for them; and now, God himself was calling them to a ministry for all nations. God reveals himself as triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The God who made us is the God who saved us and is still the God who sets us apart. Many ancient heresies wanted to make Jesus less than a man. Most modern heresies don't bother making him anything more than a man. But the Church teaches all nations to obey everything Jesus commanded us.

Psalm of the Day Psalm 150

Joyful songs and hymns of praise are the fitting spontaneous response of the Christian heart to God's gift of himself to us in his Word and sacraments.

Verse of the Day Isaiah 6:3b

"Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia." This was the call of the seraphs at Isaiah's commissioning. They were standing above the throne of the Lord in the throne room of heaven and praising God. Their threefold repetition of "holy" expresses that our God is supremely holy, and calls to mind the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

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.

Hymn of the Day 177 "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest" (Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856)

Church Year Season¹ Sundays after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

Colors & Symbolism Holy Trinity: White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Nain Paraments Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, "Praise the LORD." It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus' death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

Seasonal Traditions & Rites The Athanasian Creed

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 the saving faith.

¹ Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year A". Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author and Editor.
· Clipart courtesy of "Ecclesiastical Art by Ed Riojas"