**Trinity Sunday**

*Modified Service of the Word*

June 7, 2020

***Preservice Music and Bell Peal***

**Opening Hymn: CW # 270** *We All Believe in One True God*

**We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,**

**Everpresent help in need, Praised by all the heav’nly host,**

**By who mighty pow’r alone All is made and wrought and done.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary’s Son,**

**Who descended from his throne And for us salvation won,**

**By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Whom from both fore’er proceeds,**

**Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears and needs.**

**Blessed, holy Trinity, Hear our praise eternally!**

M: ♫ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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. We, therefore, confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**All: 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. Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: The perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ has removed our guilt forever. We are, therefore, God’s children and will continue to live for him. Amen.

In the joy of this relationship with our God we pray…

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, the one true immortal God with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson** : Genesis 1:1-2:3 (EHV)

*We worship today the Triune God, who created the heavens and the earth. There are “gods” of other religions, but not creators. If you look into the writings about them, the earth and universe came into existence without their doing, and they are mainly destroyers of it all. The Lord of Christian faith is not like all the rest!*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 (The earth was undeveloped and empty. Darkness covered the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was evening and there was morning—the first day.

6 God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters, and let it separate the water from the water.” 7 God made the expanse, and he separated the water that was below the expanse from the water that was above the expanse, and it was so. 8 God called the expanse “sky.” There was evening and there was morning—the second day.

9 God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear,” and it was so. The waters under the sky gathered to their own places, and the dry land appeared. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathering places of the waters he called “seas.” God saw that it was good. 11 God said, “Let the earth produce plants—vegetation that produces seed, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it—each according to its own kind on the earth,” and it was so. 12 The earth brought forth plants, vegetation that produces seed according to its own kind, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it, each according to its own kind, and God saw that it was good. 13 There was evening and there was morning—the third day.

14 God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night, and let them serve as markers to indicate seasons, days, and years. 15 Let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth,” and it was so. 16 God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set these lights in place in the expanse of the sky to provide light for the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. 19 There was evening and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 God said, “Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds and other winged creatures fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky.” 21 God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their own kind, and every winged bird according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them when he said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 There was evening and there was morning—the fifth day.

24 God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good.

26 God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls on the earth.”

27 God created the man in his own image.

In the image of God he created him.

Male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 God said, “Look, I have given you every plant that produces seed on the face of the whole earth, and every tree that bears fruit that produces seed. It will be your food. 30 To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** The heavens and the earth were finished, along with everything in them. 2 On the seventh day God had finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. 3 God blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy, because on it he rested from all his work of creation that he had done.

**Second Lesson**: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14 (EHV)

*Paul concludes his second letter to the Corinthians--a more upbeat letter than the first--with a simple encouragement to let our faith in the Triune God influence our actions towards one another.*

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Set things in order. Be encouraged. Agree with one another. Be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you. 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia! Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia! (Isaiah 6:3 NIV 84)

**C: ♫ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 28:16-20 (EHV)

*God, the Triune God, wishes for all people to know him. Christ Jesus commands us to go forth with the message of him and share it with all people everywhere, that all may know this gracious, redeeming, sanctifying Lord.*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. 18 Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.”

**Hymn: CW # 498** *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*

**Though I may speak with bravest fire**

**And have the gift to all inspire**

**And have not love, My words are vain**

**As sounding brass and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess**

**And, striving so, my love profess**

**But not be giv’n By love within,**

**The profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come; our hearts control.**

**Our spirits long to be made whole.**

**Let inward love Guide ev’ry deed;**

**By this we worship and are freed.**

**Sermon: Set Things in Order** *II Corinthians 13:11-14 (EHV)*

In my recent past as teacher at Northland Lutheran High School, the school year would conclude, but one task would always continue after the school year was over. In fact, in a normal year, yesterday would have been the State Track Meet. As track coach I was privileged to work with many athletes who qualified for the State Meet, including Katie Edwards and Ashley Peter, members of Our Savior’s at the time. (Perhaps you recall that Ashley Peter was twice the State Champion in Division 3 Triple Jump?)

Familiar words for any track meet are the officials’ commands: “To your marks” or “Ready”; “Set”; and “Go” or the starting gun.

It is incumbent upon the starter to ensure that these commands were given and followed quickly and precisely. The “ready” time could take a little bit, as each runner got themselves into blocks, and settled in. You want them to be comfortable in preparation, but the starter had the right to call everyone up out of the blocks and rebuke a particular athlete who was taking too long. Once a “set” call was made, the starter was to wait at least one second, but not more than two seconds, to say “go” or fire the gun. In other words, it was all to take place in fairly rapid succession.

It may seem odd, but when I first studied this text, I could not help but hear God calling out: “Ready”, “Set”, “Go!” We hear it best in Paul’s encouragement to “set things in order”. Get ready, get prepared. But when you set things in order, when you get ready, it’s not so that things can be nice and neat. Oh no. Something’s supposed to happen next. If there’s a “get ready”, there’s got to be a “go”!

In a way, for the church, Ascension is “Ready”; Pentecost is “Set; and today, Trinity—at least by this text—is “Go”! Something should happen next. Do this! Be that! Go!

At his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for his gift of the Spirit, be ready for it. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit arrived, and they were set for ministry. He gave them everything they needed to take off for proclaiming the gospel around the world.

Paul urges us to get set. “Set things in order” in our relationship with the Triune God and set things in order regarding our relationship with one another.

How do we set things in order with God? First, we understand who he is.

Strangely enough, there still is debate over the Triune God. Really? Yes, a variety of denominations and religions don’t accept Father, Son and Holy Spirit as equal members of a Godhead.

In fairness, the term “Trinity” is never used in the Bible. But then again, in the Evangelical Heritage translation, the Bible never uses the phrase: “Be stable Christian souls”. But are we not encouraged to be stable souls? God wants us firm in his word so that we are not “tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching,” (Ephesians 4:14). Christ urges us to “build on the rock” of his teachings so that “when the rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house (it does not fall) because it was founded on bedrock,” (Matthew 7:25). Yes, God wants us to be stable souls, even if that precise phrase is never found in the Bible.

So also, God is Triune, even if that word cannot be located within the Scriptures—for the teaching is clearly there. It is evident in our text. It is clear in the gospel lesson today, in Jesus’ marching orders to the church to make disciples by “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19). And so frequently, in the lead-up to Pentecost, we read in the weekly lessons Jesus telling his disciples about the “Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,” and “whom I will send to you from the Father,” (John 14:26; 15:26). There is no mistaking the three persons of the Triune God.

Setting things in order with this God means knowing who he is, but also letting him do what he does. One sentence from our text is spoken or sung in many of our worship services. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

We wish for you the “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is grace that led him to leave his heavenly home and live among us in the sinful world. It is his grace that compelled him to live in human weakness and temptation but defeat it all for us. It is grace that took him to the cross for our redemption. It is grace that brought him to cry out in triumph, “It is finished!” It is grace that brought him from the tomb and to declare, “Because I live you will live also,” (John 14:19). That’s grace!

Likewise, we wish you the full experience of the love of the Father. The love of the Father is why he was willing to let his Son go from heaven. Why else should he allow his Son such suffering? Love for you and me compelled the Father to deny the Son’s plea for another way than the cup of the cross. Love for us prompts him to send the Spirit following his Son so that we might be strengthened to go forth with the gospel and bring more into the fellowship of the Spirit.

It is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we probably missed most in this time away from each other. Spirit-prompted fellowship causes us to rejoice. The fellowship of Christian companions that can bolster our confidence in the Lord, and our faithfulness to his holy church. We can be so much a blessing to each other.

In fact, it is that Spirit-prompted fellowship that leads us to set things in order in our relationship with one another. Are you set? As God says “Go” things are going to happen among us.

In the Psalms God inspires us with this declaration, “Look, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity,” (133:1)! As Paul puts it: “Agree with one another.”

Going deeper into the relationship we strive for, we can gain insight from the Greek words that Paul used.

For example, the Greek translated as “set things in order” is katartidzesthe, with the more specific underlying meaning of “make complete” or to “be mended”. Think of a doctor setting a broken bone. In its broken form it’s not complete, it won’t be mended until it’s put back in order, the correct ends once again joined in the right places. If you’ve ever had a broken bone set, you probably remember the pain when the doctor twisted things around to get them where they belonged.

But when pain must be endured, we are so blessed that a mom or dad could sit with us and encourage us. Indeed, the Greek word for that encouragement is parakaleo, which literally means to call someone to your side and sit together with them. Mom said, “Sit down here and get a hug. You know, the doctor needed to do that, but it will be best in the long run.”

What a joy to have church member sit down with us and encourage us when any type of pain breaks into our life. Paul himself uses that same phrasing when he speaks in Romans 8, sharing his insight: “For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us,” (vs 18). Challenges now will lead to everlasting joy, overwhelming any pain and sorrow we experience here. Paul’s has called us to his side to encourage us through our pain.

In fact, one of the words used to describe the Holy Spirit is the noun based on that verb. He is the Paraclete. The Spirit himself invites us to sit down next to him so that he might share the thoughts of God and what he will do for us, reminding us of what awesome things the Lord has done already for our good. Let us sit down next to each other to share the same encouragement of our Lord’s grace.

Finally, Paul orders us to “be at peace.” Now, in our English conception, peace is a noun—a thing that can be had. It’s like we could go to our neighbor and borrow a cup of peace that we can carry home with us. What Paul said, iraeneuete, is actually a verb, more closely resembling the slang phrase, “Peace out, brother!” Peace is not something we have, it’s something we do. Even as good a phrase as “Peace be with you,” is, that’s not quite it. As a command, God is saying, “Go peace each other!” Don’t sit back and wait for peace to fall from the sky. Make it hap’n, Cap’n!

For the final encouragement of this text, take this with a grain of salt, and in the spirit of humor it’s intended, but let’s not greet each other with a holy kiss. That gets us too close! It’s not social distancing. Let’s make it an air kiss for now!

Seriously, though, as a very practical example, we have been deliberating how we can best reopen Our Savior’s for worship. In doing so, not only have we been talking among ourselves, but we have been bringing in the plans of various churches, and different advice from state agencies even beyond Wisconsin’s own so that we formulate the best plan.

Do all those reopening plans advise the same thing? Not at all. In fact, some are somewhat contradictory. But between them all we hope that we have developed a course of action that will give us the best chance to resume worship and still protect each other from the transmission of the coronavirus as well as possible.

When you see that plan, when you return to church for the first time in a while, will you be happy with everything we have put in place? Not likely. But can we agree with one another, as Paul writes? Yes, guided by our love for the Lord and for each other, we can live at peace, as our text sets things in order for us.

That brings us back around to the “Ready, set, go!” element of this text. Being ready, is what Christ has done for us, taking away our sin and our sinful mindset, replacing it with his holy will. The Holy Spirit has come to get us set: building us up in faith, encouraging us and emboldening us for the task of Christian living and Christian love for one another. Now, God says, “Go!” AMEN

**A Trinitarian Creed** *(Explanatory, loosely based on the Nicene Creed)*

We believe in One God and Lord, the Father

Who has made Himself known to man through God the Son, Jesus Christ; and is revealed to all believers through God the Holy Spirit.

 We worship and glorify Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth,

and as the Author of all things known and unknown.

 He is the true and perfect God who gave his one and only Son,

that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ,

 Who is the only Son of God, and yet is God.

 Because of his great love for us, He came down from heaven and become

fully human by the Holy Spirit.

 Because of his great love for us, He was crucified, and suffered death for our sins.

 Because of his great love for us, He rose from the dead,

and defeated Satan’s power of sin over us.

 He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us in our Christian life.

We believe in One Lord, the Holy Spirit who has spoken through the prophets.

 He comes from the Father and the Son, who with them is to be worshiped and glorified.

 He is the giver of life, the one who intercedes to God on our behalf and he is the one who empowers us for works of service.

We believe that we live in God and He in us, because He has given us his Spirit.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

Holy, Holy, Holy is your name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our hearts sing the praise your name, dear heavenly Father, for you are our creator and preserver. Especially we are thankful that in your great love you sent your own Son and offered him up for our salvation. Our hearts sing the praise of your name, dear Savior Jesus Christ, for the love with which you loved us in suffering and dying for our sins on the cross. In you, the Son of God and Son of Man we find hope, joy, and peace. Our hearts sing the praise of your name, dear Holy Spirit, for you have revealed God’s truth to mankind, and through it have called us to faith and forgiveness. In your work we grow in faith and walk in the paths pleasing to God.

Oh hear us when we pray. Forgive our countless sins for the sake of him who has redeemed us. Forgive us for failing to worship and serve you as we ought. Let your hand of blessing be open to all of us when we call upon you. Nourish us by the Word. Strengthen us in faith and faithful living. Cheer us in the trials of life. Direct our physical and spiritual footsteps so that we do not falter, nor lose the way.

What we pray from you for us, bring also those same gifts with others. If it pleases you that we may be the instrument of your grace on earth, give us a willing spirit to serve. May we be an encourager and counselor for those worn down by life. Open our hands to fulfill the needs of others. Let us guide those who seek you with the Word of truth you have so graciously put into our hands.

Today we pray for those in our hearts who are in need. We pray for the family of Stewart Clark who has passed away. Enfold them in your loving arms and guide them to trust in you for strength and blessings. Care for Verjean Detert in her illness and extend your healing hand to Rose Schreiber who is being evaluated for a skin lesion. Give the doctors the necessary knowledge and compassion to bring help and relief.

Hear us as we also pray for other friends and relatives who can use your blessing....

Make us firm in the confession of your name, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Make us victorious Christians who are ever faithful to your Word, faithful to our calling, and faithful to you! In the name of Jesus we pray for these, and all other blessings….

**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.**

**Hymn: CW # 517** *Almighty Father, Strong to Save*

**Almighty Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,**

**Who bids the mighty oceans deep Its own appointed limits keep;**

**Oh, hear our earnest, humble plea For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain O’er which our traffic runs amain**

**By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, your people go,**

**Protect them by your guarding hand From ev’ry peril on the land.**

**O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;**

**O Wind of heaven, by your might Save all who dare the eagle’s flight,**

**And keep them by your watchful care From ev’ry peril in the air**

**O Trinity of love and pow’r Your people shield in danger’s hour;**

**From rock and tempest, fir and foe, Protect them all, where’er they go;**

**Thus evermore to you shall be Glad praise from air and land and sea.**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and to do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with your and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

**C: ♫ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: CW # 241** *Alleluia! Let Praises Ring!*

**Alleluia! Let praises ring!**

**To God the Father let us bring**

**Our songs of adoration.**

**To him through everlasting days**

**Be worship, honor, pow’r and praise**

**Whose hand sustains creation.**

**Singing, Ringing; Holy, holy, God is holy.**

**Spread the story**

**Of our God, the Lord of glory.**

**Alleluia! Let praises ring!**

**Unto the Lamb of God we sing,**

**In whom we are elected.**

**He bought the Church with his own blood;**

**He cleansed herein that blessed flood**

**And as his bride selected.**

**Holy, Holy is our union And communion.**

**His befriending**

**Gives us joy and peace unending.**

**Alleluia! Let praises ring!**

**Unto the Holy Ghost we sing**

**For our regeneration.**

**The saving faith in us he wrought**

**And us unto the Bridegroom brought,**

**Made us his chosen nation.**

**Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal;**

**There is manna**

**And an endless, glad hosanna.**

**Alleluia! Let praises ring!**

**Unto our triune God we sing;**

**Blest be his name forever!**

**With angel hosts let us adore**

**And sing his praises more and more**

**For all his grace and favor.**

**Singing, Ringing; Holy, holy, God is holy.**

**Spread the story**

**Of our God, the Lord of glory.**

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**Notes and News**

**Church Reopening for Worship**

We will resume in-person worship services on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 PM and Sunday, June 14 at 8:00 & 10:30 AM. Please see the separate letter for more information. We’ll continue to live stream a Sunday service on Facebook.

* We are looking for volunteers to do a quick disinfection after Thursday's service and before the second service on Sunday morning. Contact the church office to volunteer.

**Parsonage Refurbishing Updates**

Work continues to take place and we are now getting close to the final stages. The following are some of the items remaining to be done.

Replace ceiling tile in downstairs hallway

Hang light fixture in dining room

Reinstall blinds in some rooms

Put shelves back in closets

Reinstall baseboards in kitchen, dining, and upper hallway

Move painting items & other misc. items back to church storage room

Make adjustments on garage doors and service doors

Replace some electric receptacles and light switches

When most or all of the above are done then the cabinets in kitchen, the stove and refrigerator, bathroom counter, and floors in bedrooms etc. can be cleaned.

If you and or some of your friends are willing to help please call Bill Unruh @ 715-359-6335 and let him know. Arrangements can be made to do it during the day or evenings whichever fits your schedule.

**Needs for the parsonage/teacherage**

Mr. Nathan Lemke comes to us straight from Martin Luther College, so he has not accumulated a full household of furnishings yet. If you can help with the gift or loan of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send an email to the church office osinfo@oursaviorswausau.org or leave a message on the phone 715.845.3253.

Wish list: washer & dryer,spare bed, dresser, end tables, lawn & garden tools, lawn mower, chest freezer

**Farewell for the Hutchinsons**

On Sunday, June 21 we will bid farewell to Ethan and Katie Hutchinson who have served Our Savior’s school very ably these last four years. The farewell will be held from 2-4 PM outside the parsonage. Ethan and Katie will be at the end of the driveway so that those who wish to say goodbye from their cars may do so and circle around the cul-de-sac to exit. Those who wish to visit longer may do so in the driveway and across the street in the park, maintaining a comfortable distance. Pray for nice weather!

**Memorials**

We offer our thanks to the following members for gifts given in memory of Carol Smith’s brother, Gordon Borchardt: Mark & Beth Krohn, Rick & Karen Leopold, Gordon & Mavis Schubring.

*Blessed be his memory. Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.*