



## **The Feast of the Holy Trinity 2019**

Zion Lutheran Church  
Wausau, Wisconsin

June 16, 2019 + 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

## Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by the Engebrecht family: in loving memory of Emil Zahrt, who died at age 45 on March 13, 1945, and in loving memory of Robert Engebrecht, who died 6 years ago on August 1.
- The Flowers at the Altar are sponsored in celebration and thanksgiving for Adeline Brandenburg's 103rd birthday (June 14) by her family.
- Today's bulletins are sponsored by Dan and Sue Gruetzmacher in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary (June 13).
- The sponsor charts for 2019 for Broadcasts and Flowers are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

## If God is not Three Persons, Love is Impossible

Holy Scripture teaches that God is not one person, but three persons in one God, equal of worship, honor, and glory, sharing the same life, will, mind, and future. This teaching distinguishes the love of God from all false religions on earth.

First, since God is at least two persons, love is eternal – that is, it existed before the creation was made. For the Father loved the Son, and the Son love the Father, even before there was anyone else to love. Like God, then, love has no beginning and no end.

Second, since God is not only these two persons, but also a third person, love is free – that is, it can be freely given away to others. For the Holy Spirit takes the love that the Father and Son share with each other and opens it up to all creation. That's why the Holy Spirit made the Son incarnate of the Virgin Mary: He was drawing God's love down to earth. That's also why the Spirit continues to fill and work through the Church: He is still giving the Son to the world, and where the Son goes, the Father's love follows.

Love is eternal, and love is free, because God is three persons.

We can see the difference between true love and false love in the contrast between this Holy Trinity and non-Christian religions such as Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormonism. There, God is just one person. For that "God" to have love, he needed to make creation first. But then love is not eternal! Moreover, creation has to stay lovable by being obedient – in fact, "Islam" means "submission." But then love is not free, but earned!

Against this false love, we hold fast to the Holy Trinity, praying for the grace to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from Him. ~ *Pr. Gjerde*

## Announcements

Parish announcements may be found in the weekly newsletter, *For You*, provided by the ushers.



## PRELUDE

Variations on "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

... Jeffrey Blersch

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

*Please stand and turn towards the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" green hymnal #535

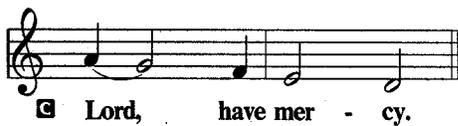
## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**P:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



*[The Father] has even given to us His Son and the Holy Spirit, who brings us to Himself. For we could never grasp the knowledge of the Father's grace and favor except through the Lord Christ. Jesus is a mirror of the fatherly heart, outside of whom we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But we couldn't know anything about Christ either, unless it had been revealed by the Holy Spirit.*

*~ Martin Luther, Large Catechism, A.D. 1529*



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the  
 Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-  
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

*...We neither can nor need we fill in the revelation with our own speculations. We can only confirm what God has said about Himself.*

*~ Bo Giertz,  
Preaching from the  
 Whole Bible, A.D.  
 1957*

### SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

☒ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and rule, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*Please be seated.*

*The Word of God communicates the love of God. The love of God means God's resolution to love people, though it may call for supreme sacrifice, even when such sacrifice is implemented by "inconvenient" and "inefficient" processes. Being love, God is prepared to operate in history "inefficiently" ...*

## **OLD TESTAMENT** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

<sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man."<sup>22</sup> "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. <sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, <sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. <sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 8**

L: O 'LORD our Lord,\*  
how exalted is your name in 'all the world!

C: **Out of the mouths of in'fants and children\*  
your majesty is praised a'bove the heavens.**

L: You have set up a stronghold against your 'adversaries,\*  
to quell the enemy and 'the avenger.

C: **When I consider your heavens, the work 'of your fingers,\*  
the moon and the stars you have set 'in their courses,**

L: what is man that you should be mind'ful of him,\*  
the son of man that you should 'seek him out?

**C: You have made him but little lower 'than the angels;\***  
**you adorn him with glo'ry and honor;**

L: you give him mastery over the works 'of your hands;\*

you put all things un'der his feet:

**C: all 'sheep and oxen,\***  
**even the wild beasts 'of the field,**

L: the birds of the air, the fish 'of the sea,\*  
and whatever walks in the paths 'of the sea.

**C: O 'LORD our Lord,\***  
**how exalted is your name in 'all the world!**

**All: Glory to the Father and 'to the Son,\***  
**and to the 'Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in 'the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. 'Amen**

**EPISTLE** Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 22-36

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, <sup>22</sup>“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know – <sup>23</sup>this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and fore-knowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup>God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup>“Brothers, I may say to

*...Jesus did not come down from the cross. He refused to free Himself from the cross, and by doing so He refused to disengage Himself from sinful human history...God refuses to give up, no matter how “inefficient” the divine work becomes.*

*~ Kosuke Koyama, Water Buffalo Theology, A.D. 1999*

*We know the Holy Trinity because God has revealed Himself to us in that manner. He has not given us theoretical teachings, but has stepped forward and dealt with us as the Father, our Creator; as the Son, our Savior, and as the Holy Ghost, who works in the Church and in our hearts.*

*~ Bo Giertz,  
To Live  
with Christ  
A.D. 1974*

you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup>he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies your footstool.’ <sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### VERSE

L: Al-le-'luia.\*

Al-le-'luia.

The LORD also has put away your sin; you 'shall not die.\*

Your faith has saved you; 'go in peace.

Al-le-'luia.\*

Al-le-'luia.

### GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.



<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered [Jesus], "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' <sup>55</sup>But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" green hymnal #473

## **SERMON**

"The Tendentious Trinity"

*Please stand.*

Against all assertions that revelation must fit within the bounds of reason –if a triune God offends human logic, for example, then the language of Scripture must be made to point toward a humanly intelligible God – orthodox Christianity asserts another premise: that reason seeks out the logic embedded in God’s revelation. If the experience of our hearts and the language of Scripture demand a more complex apprehension of the God we worship, then our thought must follow...

**CREEDAL HYMN** *(sung by all)*

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
 2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
 3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
 Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
 Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.  
 By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
 Bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

*Please kneel.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the Friendship Register, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

## VOLUNTARY

“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire” ... Kevin Hildebrand

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY

**C: 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.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Father,**

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P: The Lord be with you.**



**☐ And al - so with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**



**☐ We lift them to the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**



**☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*...the ineluctably experiential character of the Christian faith is at the heart of Trinitarian confession. We proclaim God as triune because that is how we have experienced God, indeed how God has been revealed to us. Let reason follow, and make what sense of things it can.*

*~ Luke Timothy Johnson, The Creed, A.D. 2003*

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS ("Holy")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

## ACCLAMATION

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

*[The angel Gabriel said to Mary] The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

~ Luke 1:35

*[Jesus said] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.*

~ John 14:16

**A Prayer  
As You Go**  
 Holy Triune  
 God...In  
 Your bound-  
 less mercy,  
 You have  
 created me  
 to be able to  
 meet You  
 and experi-  
 ence only a  
 glimpse of  
 Your incom-  
 prehensible  
 nature. I  
 worship and  
 thank You,  
 my heav-  
 enly Father,  
 my Savior,  
 and loyal  
 Helper, on  
 my way to  
 heavenly  
 bliss.  
 Blessed be  
 Your name,  
 the Holy  
 Trinity, my  
 Lord and  
 my God.

~ Bo Giertz,  
 A.D. 1974

*The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.*

*Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.*

*The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

“God, Whose Almighty Word” green hymnal #400

“Now the Silence” green hymnal #205

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Pour out on us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



*Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy” green hymnal #165

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

“Holy, Holy, Holy” ... Jeffrey Blersch and Michael Burkhardt

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**  
*To God alone be glory*

## Serving at Worship

Preaching (9:00 a.m.): The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Preaching (11:00 a.m.): The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Assisting: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Vocalists: Vicky Radunz; Carol Rich

Lector: (9:00) Landis Holdorf

(11:00) Carl Boettcher

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Acolytes: (9:00) Michael Cornell; Taylor Halverson; Asa Rich

(11:00) Nathan Contreras

Elder: (9:00) Robb Halverson

(11:00) Karla Westcott

Ushers: (9:00) Mark Gehrke; Grace Mueller;

Frank and Tammie Rodemeier

(11:00) Al Lippert

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Sally Christoffersen

(11:00) Marge Gausewitz; Cheryl Plautz

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen; Pam Hoppe

## **Acknowledgements**

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*Credal Hymn: "We All Believe in One True God": Public Domain.*

## **Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Pastoral Assistant** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Children's Catechist** Ivan Beethe  
**Office Manager** Pam Gabriel  
**Secretary** Anna Mae Zeinemann  
**Custodian** Michael Renken

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**To visit our webpage:**  
[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
click "Listen Live" at [www.wsau.com](http://www.wsau.com))

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Core**  
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