



IS AUTHORITY GOOD?

Trinity Sunday Worship Folder for June 7th, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome! Though I am not able to physically worship with you, it is an honor to share God's word with you and direct your worship to our great God, he is most worthy of our praise and worship!

I cannot direct you to the restroom or a quiet place for your children, I trust you to know that wherever you might be. However, I would like to encourage you to put distractions aside, they can wait. Give your time and attention to God. I would also like to remind you of God's promise that his Holy Spirit is actively working wherever his word is (Hebrews 4:12).

I would also like to give you some brief info concerning the service. This particular order of service, was chosen for its simplicity but also because of the message it reminds us of, namely, that God has given to each believer the power to forgive or not forgive sins. Worship in confidence that God hears and recognizes your praise even if it is in the setting of your own home for a time.

You can go through the service together as a family, individually, or with someone leading and the rest joining in on the **bold** sections.

Finally, **links have been included for the two hymns, a sermon, and the children's message.** They will take you to YOUTUBE where there will be words, music and an additional voice singing (for the first hymn but not for the second). If it helps your worship please make use of it, if you don't prefer that, or prefer just follow along and meditate on the words that is, obviously, also fine.

Today we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday. This is a Sunday where we place our focus on the greatness of our God, what it is that makes him great and the privilege we have to know and serve him. In looking at our Triune God, we can't help but notice his authority. Authority is a topic that is under great discussion in our world today, should God's be too? As we turn to God's Word to learn about him and his authority may we see what a blessing it is to know about God's authority and how he uses it! May God bless your worship and your celebration today!

-Pastor Sam Biebert

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call (Psalm 42)” – Keith and Kristyn Getty
[\(Click Here For Song and Lyrics\)](#)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Although the Bible ascribes certain works to each person (the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier), 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 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.

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:3

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.

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.

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.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

¹¹ 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

Alleluia. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.
(Isaiah 6:3b)

Gospel Reading (Sermon Text): Matthew 28:16-20

⁵“But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Today we used the words of the Athanasian Creed which highlights the surpassing glory of our 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.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit. The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty: yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord, so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords. The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone. The Son is neither made nor created but is begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but

proceeds from the Father and the Son. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

Sermon on Matthew 28:16-20

Theme: "Is Authority Good?"

[Click Here For Sermon](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Is Authority Good?

6-7-2020

A lot of discussion in our world today is centering around authority and how good it is. Is it good for individuals to have the authority that police have? Is it good to have the authority governors have? Is it good to have authority the president has? We can go up and down the system and we can find authority we hate but we can also find authority that we love. But I am not sure that I have ever come across a person who says they agree with all authority or even that all authority is good. Individually, we have a compass that, at least in our own minds, separates authority in these neatly messy piles of good authority and bad authority, authority that goes beyond where it should and authority that does not go as far as it should. The fact is, for each one, those piles look a little bit different. But, again, I don't think that any single one of us believes that all authority is ever good in the hands of one or that any of us would ever say that they only have one pile and that authority is always perfectly held and used by the individuals who are given it.

Additionally, people often fight for authority and that fight is often ugly. On top of everything else that is going on this year, it is also an election year. Authority is up for grabs. That means your phones are going to be ringing, your televisions are going to be humming, and the internet is going to be brimming with arguments, agendas and activists stating why this person or that person deserves to be given authority over you. It becomes tiresome. It becomes something we dread. It can be tempting to say that we should try to just get rid of authority all together, limit it or just give it to fewer people so that fewer people are bugging us for it. Is authority good?

Today is Trinity Sunday. It is a Sunday in which we are celebrating our God. We are celebrating who he is, that he is great, that he is above our understanding, that he is bigger than us and that we owe him our praise for creating and holding us, for redeeming and saving us, for making us new and making us holy. We are celebrating his authority. In fact, in our lesson that we will revisit shortly, we are hearing that he has been given all authority. Additionally, the truth of the matter would be if he has all authority, well then everyone who has been given authority has received it from God. God in his authority has handed it out, even to the people we don't think should have it. Is this something we should really be celebrating? Is this something we should be praising God for? If authority can frustrate us, should our God who is Triune, three in one, should his authority and the fact he has all of it frustrate us? Is authority good?

As we struggle and wrestle with this question, may our thoughts remain captive to the Word of God and to help us do that, let's return to our Lesson from Matthew 28 which tells us:

¹⁶ 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."

This year has been a challenge for all of us. Part of the reason it has been a challenge for all of us is because it has caused us all to have to think outside the box, to learn new ways to do things or to adapt to what we see going on around us. It is an aspect of God's authority at work. We don't get to decide the how or why, we only react to it and trust God knows what he is doing. This year is an extremely good example of that.

But that also extends into all aspects of our lives and the daily joys and troubles which arise. That extends to the people God has placed in positions of authority, all of these things also cause us to adapt in different ways, some comfortable, some not, but it is still God who is ultimately in control.

As we see in our lesson, some find this as reason to praise God and some see this as reason to doubt God or to be uncertain about him. Wherever you find yourself in that spectrum, it is important to hear how God handles his supreme authority which includes, what he allows and to whom he hands it out too. He tells us very simply and plainly that he holds all authority for the purpose of us going and making disciples of all nations. These disciples are not to be made to think the same way as we do politically. These disciples are not to be made to have the same exact worldview as us. These disciples are not to be made to like the same things I like. These disciples are not to be made to think the same as me or go about things like me.

However, these disciples are to be made to believe in the only God there is, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, our God who is three persons yet one God. These disciples are to be made not to keep my instructions or the instructions I view as vital but to keep the instructions our Triune God has given us in his Word. This, the Word of our Triune God, is to be the source of our teaching and the source of our instruction. While we, especially in this country, have many other sources of teaching we find important, Math books and History books, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, World maps and our laws which govern our society, all of which are important and good, none of these will ever rise to a greater level of importance than the Word of our Triune God.

It is true that we cannot fully comprehend our God. It is true he is greater than us so we should never foolishly think that we can fully understand our God. But it is also important to recognize and repent of sin here. Sometimes we don't want to. Sometimes God is pushing us towards something or away from something and we fight back with a stubbornness. In doing this, we tell him we know more than he knows. We reject his authority, the authority he uses to place things or people in our lives. We reject his authority and the authority he uses to place different people in different places of authority, yes even people on the opposite side of the political isle we lean towards and even people who express different views about life in this world than we do. We sin in many ways but this can be and often is, one of those ways. We see God's authority as bad. We doubt it. We say we want all nations to hear know his word but don't always like what it looks like in our lives or in our churches when that happens. Because God's authority is not used to push the politics or the way of life that is comfortable to us, no. God's authority is used to make sure people who think and act in many different ways than we do still think and act the way that he desires them to according to his Word. That takes authority, in fact it takes all of it.

And brothers and sisters in Christ, that authority is good. That authority is good because it is the authority God used to shatter Satan's chains which held your heart captive and it is the authority God used to crush Satan's head. It is the authority God used to bleed over your sin making you clean and it is the authority God used to bury death so that its hold on your life would be suffocated and powerless to bring you fear. It is the authority that God uses to bring good out of a world health crisis and bring his Word to an even higher level of accessibility than ever before. It is the authority that God uses to make a public murder taking place in the light of day to bring more understanding, to better try to encourage fellow humankind in the struggles they face and to be more thankful for earthly authority that goes about their jobs in a noble and upright way despite the natural human inclinations within us all. It is authority that can create more peace between people despite chaos and it is authority that makes you and I the promise to be with us always, always there with his perfect authority to bring good out of evil, always there with his good authority to pick us up and point us in the way we should go and always there to thwart the ways the devil tries to sidetrack us to what is most important, bringing glory to his name and souls to know the salvation that is theirs in the name of the only true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Authority is good because our God, who holds it all, is perfect. How awesome it is live for and worship him with you. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you have created all things and given them to us for our good. Enable us to trust that you will continue to provide all that we need for body and life and so free us from the worries and cares that otherwise beset us. Fill our hearts with your Spirit that we may be good stewards of all that you have entrusted to us and use it to carry out your purposes.

Lord Jesus, you have redeemed us to be your own. Dwell in us according to your promise that we might live in your forgiveness and holiness. Continue to transform us so that others, when they look at us, may recognize you. Cause the fruits of faith to be an abundant harvest in our lives so that we and others may be blessed through them.

Holy Spirit, Fount of wisdom and source of all spiritual gifts, continue to dwell in us that we might grow in faith, in wisdom, in knowledge, and in Christian love. Work in the hearts and lives of others that they, too, may be brought out of the darkness and death of sin and into the light and life that are ours in you. Fill our hearts with your fire so that we share the Word of salvation with others who need to know it. Cause us to be eager to use the gifts you have given us for the benefit of the church. Make us faithful witnesses of your truth.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for answering our prayers by leading Allison Grunke to accept our call to serve as a teacher in our preschool. We pray that you would grant her the wisdom to use faithfully the gifts you have given her to fulfill her ministry among us. Help us honor and respect her as your gift to our congregation. Enable us to work together with her and all our called workers in a spirit of harmony and love, that your kingdom may flourish among us and come also to the hearts of others, to the glory of your holy name.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

O Holy Spirit, you intercede for us with groans that words cannot express. Transform our human petitions to sanctified prayer through the merits of Jesus, who has taught us to pray:

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.

BLESSING:

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.

Closing Hymn: “May the Peace of God” – Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

[\(Click Here For Song and Lyrics\)](#)