



WORSHIPING THE TRIUNE GOD

July 25, 2021

11:15 More Modern Worship

First Lutheran Church

Charlotte, Michigan

WELCOME

The Spirit of God has taught you to worship and has led you into this house of worship. May you be blessed with the word and Spirit as we gather . . . and may your participation be a blessing to other worshipers.

CONNECTION FORM AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your bulletin)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take your child to the "NURSERY" behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary. There is a speaker so that you can see and hear the service.

A BLESSING

May continuous thoughts of the true God -- the Triune God -- and His amazing grace swirl through your heart and mind, your conscious thought and your prayer.
Worship and live in His strength and grace.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

St. Paul wrote: *For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*
Galatians 2:19-21 (NIV)

*Since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
Romans 3:25 (NIV)

THE TRIUNE GOD HAS EXHIBITED HIS GRACE OUR GOD HAS MADE PEACE BETWEEN US

OUR PSALM OF PRAISE – Psalm 30:1-7, 11-12

Pastor: Come, let us worship Yahweh, the Lord, our God.

**All: I will exalt You, O LORD, for You lifted me out of the depths . . .
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
O LORD my God, I called to You for help and You healed me.
O LORD, You brought me up from the grave;
You spared me from going down into the pit.**

**Pastor: Sing to the LORD, you saints of His; praise His holy name.
For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.
When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."**

**All: O LORD, when You favored me, You made my mountain stand firm;
but when You hid Your face, I was dismayed.
You turned my wailing into dancing;
You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing to You and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever. Amen**

A SONG OF WORSHIP – “King of Kings”

THE LORD GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

THE PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT

**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**

GOD TEACHES US THE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL READING – Mark 13:5-13 (WEB)

Jesus, answering, began to tell them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray.

⁶ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and will lead many astray.

⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don’t be troubled. For those must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines and troubles. These things are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ But watch yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils. You will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them. ¹⁰ The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. ¹¹ When they lead you away and deliver you up, don't be anxious beforehand, or premeditate what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ You will be hated by all men for my name's sake, but he who endures to the end will be saved.

Pastor: These are the teachings of Jesus, our Savior.

All: Lord, help us understand Your words and take them to heart. Amen

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING - Acts 5:12-42 (WEB)

By the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. They were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, however the people honored them. ¹⁴ More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. ¹⁵ They even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might overshadow some of them. ¹⁶ The multitude also came together from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits: and they were all healed. ¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy ¹⁸ and laid hands on the apostles, then put them in public custody. ¹⁹ But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night, and brought them out and said, ²⁰ "Go stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." ²¹ When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But the officers who came didn't find them in the prison. They returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" ²⁴ Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them and what might become of this. ²⁵ One came and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are in the temple, standing and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain went with the officers, and brought them without violence, for they were afraid that the people might stone them. ²⁷ When they had brought them,

they set them before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "Didn't we strictly command you not to teach in this name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood on us."
²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.
³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed, hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. ³² We are his witnesses of these things. and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³ But they, when they heard this, were cut to the heart, and were determined to kill them.
³⁴ But one stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, honored by all the people, and commanded to put the apostles out for a little while. ³⁵ He said to them, "You men of Israel, be careful concerning these men, what you are about to do. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, making himself out to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves. He was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were dispersed, and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the enrollment, and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered abroad. ³⁸ Now I tell you, withdraw from these men, and leave them alone. For if this counsel or this work is of men, it will be overthrown. ³⁹ But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would be found even to be fighting against God!" ⁴⁰ They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, apostles, they beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for Jesus' name. ⁴² Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus, the Christ.

Pastor: Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for Your word.

All: Spirit of God, increase our faith and our courage by Your power.

Pastor: Help us to be passionate about following You and speaking about You.

**All: O God, our Savior and only hope of eternal life,
may our lives give You honor and praise. Amen**

A SONG OF PRAISE – "All of Creation"

THE MESSAGE

THE TRIUNE GOD

Why Are the Three Persons of the Godhead Called Persons?

GOD'S WORD AND SPIRIT COMPEL OUR RESPONSE

A PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH – the Athanasian Creed – Part 2

**We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God,
neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**

**So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.
And yet there are not three Gods but one God.**

**So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord.
And yet there are not three Lords but one Lord.**

**For as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge . . .
every person by himself to be both God and Lord,
so we cannot say that there are three God or three Lords.**

The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created but begotten.

**The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son,
neither made nor created nor begotten but proceeding.**

**So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.**

**And in this Trinity none is before or after another;
none is greater or less than another.**

**But the whole three persons are coeternal together and coequal,
so that in all things, as is aforesaid,**

the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.

This is the Christian faith . . . and this I believe. Amen

OUR PRAYER IN FAITH – “This Is the Air I Breathe”

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS AND FAITH

Pastor: The God Whom we worship is the God revealed in the Scriptures. He reveals Himself as the one and only true God. "I am the Lord, that is my name. I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols." (Isaiah 42:8) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5) The Lord's words instructs us: "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." (Proverbs 20:13) People of God, let us speak to God and confess our sins and our faith.

**All: O almighty God, I am a poor miserable sinner.
I confess my sinfulness and my sin to You.
I deserve Your just punishment now and forever.
But I am heartily sorry for them . . . and sincerely repent of them.
I trust that You have graciously given me salvation through Jesus.
I trust that You continue to work in me each day . . .
by Your Spirit in me . . . to keep me in the true faith
and to enable, guide, instruct, enlighten, and encourage.
O Triune God, make every action, thought, and word
reflect my belief . . . that You are the one True God.
I am Yours through Jesus. Preserve me in that faith . . .
and forgive my sins for His sake. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

OUR SONG OF ADORATION – “The Lion and the Lamb”

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Lord God has rescued us from damnation and put His Spirit into us.
He has truly blessed us with great spiritual gifts -- forgiveness, spiritual life,
eternal life with Him . . . and with bodies and souls, homes and families,
learning and recreation, etc. Giving our tithes and offerings is a
wonderful expression of our trust in the one and only true God.

Please also complete a “Connection Form” and put it into the offering plate.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

OUR CLOSING PRAYER

THE BLESSING

Silent Prayer
Announcements

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**MAY YOUR WEEKEND BE SPECIAL
BECAUSE GOD IS THE PRIORITY OF YOUR LIFE**

CREDITS

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A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Dr. David Jeremia

Heavenly Father, every good gift and perfect gift comes from You. You are a faithful God and Your mercy endures forever. You have promised to bless the nation that trusts in You. Our currency proclaims "In God We Trust," but in our culture we are far from You. In the words of the prophet Daniel, "We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments." Hear our prayer and, for Your honor's sake, shine Your face upon this nation. Give our leaders the desire to seek Your wisdom and the courage to follow Your guidance and watch over the men and women of our armed forces as they sacrifice for the cause of freedom. We give You thanks for all You have done for us, and we earnestly pray that You will help us become, once again, a nation whose God is the Lord. In the name of Your Son, and our Savior, we pray this prayer. Amen

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

adapted from Tony Evans 2016 prayer for our National Day of Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we come to You today as humble people desperate for Your supernatural and gracious intervention on behalf of our beloved nation. First, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed on our land, blessings that have allowed us to bring so much good and benefit to not only our own citizens but also to the rest of the world. The very ideals upon which this country was founded were based on biblical truths, no matter how some try to rewrite history to deny that very fact today.

O Lord, we are dismayed that You continue to be marginalized and dismissed by so many people and institutions. in our country. We are also saddened by the fact that even we, who are Your people, in so many ways have gone along with our culture. Many in our country are Christians in name but no longer trust You and Your word and not longer trust Jesus as their only hope of life forever with You. Many are content to think of themselves as religious, but have made up their own system of beliefs.

Help us, O Lord, the true God, as Christians and former Christians and never Christians to see truth – Your truth -- and recognize our need to repent of our sinfulness – our lives lived contrary to Your perfect will. Help us also see and repent for our sinful nature . . . which is always self-serving. Help those of us who are Your people by Your grace received through faith to recommit ourselves to becoming visible and verbal followers of Jesus, letting His light shine through us and His love flow from us.. Enable us, by Your Spirit, to no longer be secret agent Christians but rather to publicly declare and live out Your truth in a spirit of love so that You are welcomed again in this great country You have given us.

Thank You for Your promise to hear our prayers when we call to You.. On behalf of Your church, we affirm afresh the priority You are to us that You would fill every dimension of our lives as we seek to bring You glory through the advancement of Your kingdom in our personal lives, our family lives, and in the lives of our churches and our government leaders. We confidently invite heaven's intervention into all the affairs of our nation . . . and we praise You in advance for Your answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.