



TRINITY SUNDAY

31ST May 2026

In the name of the + Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

HYMN

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to
thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide
thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not
see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and
sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Invitation to Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.
Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Amen.

The Collect for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit^[d] of the LORD,
or instruct the LORD as his counsellor?

¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

Psalm 8

1 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

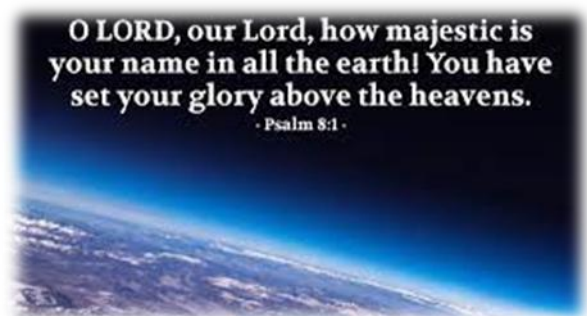
5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.

6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



St Paul's final greeting in his letter to the church.

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All God's people here send their greetings. ¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

HYMN

1 Bright the vision that delighted
Once the sight of Judah's seer;
Sweet the countless tongues united
To entrance the prophet's ear

3 Heaven is still with glory ringing,
Earth takes up the angels' cry,
Holy, holy, holy," singing,
Lord of hosts, the Lord most high."

2 Round the Lord in glory seated
Cherubim and seraphim
Filled His temple, and repeated
Each to each the alternate hymn:

4 With His seraph train before him,
With His holy Church below,
Thus conspire we to adore Him,
Bid we thus our anthem flow.

5 Lord, Thy glory fills the Heaven;
Earth is with its fullness stored;
Unto Thee be glory given,
Holy, holy, holy Lord."

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel is from the 28th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew beginning at the 16th verse.
Glory to you O Lord

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

It's very hard not to have images. Because we think in images, we understand through images. St. Augustine suggests that it is because our minds are images of God's, which means God imagined you before he created you – there's a thought.

God by being God is beyond anything we could imagine anyway. But that should not be thought of as distance, that God is beyond us, but rather as DIFFERENCE. Not incalculable separation but inexhaustible strangeness, a refusal to be captured.

Our words and images are attempts to seize, define, and work with, the aftermath of God. We experience the Divine in some way and try to describe it, give 'it' a name. Our religious traditions are a provisional understanding of what has occurred in a community of belief or to us as individuals. They are worshipful responses to God. They do not describe God and the difference is important to grasp. Because when we try to define God, our various concepts will always be our creation. We cannot fix or pin down God with any concepts, for God is not a concept like 'book' or 'daisy'.

The creed is the Christian attempt to define God as experienced and known in three forms. We might say the Father is the thought, the Son the spoken creative word and the Spirit the empowering action. Or the Father as the focus, the Son as the expression, the Spirit as the experience.

Whatever we put into these descriptions are necessarily subjective – our ideas from our experience. They are helpful because they organise our thinking by giving language. This may give simple pleasure, or comfort us, help us give structure and allow reasoned thought – but even they are subject again to change as we change.

Isaiah in his vision of God, (Isaiah 6) describes himself as 'undone' (KJV), lost, overwhelmed. This is the 'cloud of unknowing' that we need to enter letting go of words and ideas. 'By love God can be grasped and held, but by thought neither grasped nor held.' (The Cloud of Unknowing).

We need to examine our ideas about God frequently. I don't think we have much choice. If we are deliberately attempting a journey of faith, God seems to do it to us; to jolt us out of the worn out and complacent.

This is necessary and good although it does not feel so at the time. But if we cling to ideas and images, we have held for years we cease to grow. We find they cease to work for us; they become worn out and unbelievable. This is disturbing, we might feel we have lost our faith. What we have lost are dusty images.

We are drawn to respond to a God of excellent goodness, mercy, power, and life, ever creative, always moving towards us with great grace and love like boundless waves of the sea. We plunge in, to rediscover mystery, doubt, complexity and ambiguity as a necessary and intrinsic part of religious desire.

The creed

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is,
 seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions

Help us, good Lord, to respond to the mystery of your love,
the love that creates and sustains us,
the love that saves and transforms us,
the love that comforts and challenges us.

Help us, good Lord, to know the mystery of your being,
the one who is Father of all people,
the one who is Saviour of all people,
the one who is Inspirer of all people.

Help us good Lord, to trust in the mystery of your promises,
the promise to welcome us,
the promise to forgive us,
the promise to comfort us,
Help us, good Lord, to respond,
to know to trust in the mystery of the Three and the One.

When we cannot understand, help us to trust.
When we feel confused, help us to have faith.
When we are plagued by doubt help us Lord to love
When we have travelled far from you Lord
help to find the way back.
For you are our God Father Son and Holy Spirit

We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments ...
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

We pray for the Church, created for your glory,
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...
Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...
Breathe on them the breath of life
and bring them to your mercy and grace.

We pray for ourselves,
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you living and dead.
Bring us all to your fuller presence,
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,
as we worship you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever. Amen.

Blessings and Ending

God the Father,
who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son,
bless you. Amen.
God the Son,
who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
bless you. Amen.
God the Holy Spirit,
who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts,
bless you. Amen.
The blessing of the one true God,

to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity,
+ come down upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth
thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.