

THE HOLY TRINITY



God's Definite Plan

May 26, 2024
(8:00 am & 11:00 am)

AS WE GATHER

There are times in our life when we have wondered if God cares about us or not. On this festive Sunday of Holy Trinity, we find the answer—yes! There has been a divine plan in place for this world. More than that, there is a divine plan and purpose for you. Listen to Peter's words carefully. As you do, you will hear Peter tell about God's definite plan for this world and His definite plan to redeem you and make you His child. Rejoice on this Trinity Sunday that God not only created you but has a definite plan for your life.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN 8:00 AM "Come, Thou Almighty King" 905
 11:00 AM "Listen, God is Calling" 833

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit,
People: **who created us from dust, redeemed us by His blood, and gives us saving faith. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Revelation 4:8b, 11*

Pastor: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!
People: **Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,**

Pastor: for You created all things,
People: **and by Your will they existed and were created.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, we are called to confess You as the God who has no equal;
People: **You are three distinct persons, yet one God.**

Pastor: You are holy, I am not; You are righteous, I am not.
People: **Yet in Your foreknowledge, You knew this would be my state, and You made a distinct and definite plan for a way to redeem me from my sins: the sins of thought, which creep into my mind daily; my words, which deserve death because of the evil that comes from my tongue; and my deeds, which I know go against Your holiness. Forgive me, Lord, for these and all sins, not because I am deserving, but because of Your definite plan of mercy and grace shown to me at the cross.**

Pastor: I ask you before God, who searches all hearts, and one another, is this your sincere confession? If so, answer yes.
People: **Yes, this is my sincere confession before God and before my brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Pastor: Hear the good news on this day! God has forgiven you all your sins because of the blood of Jesus shed at the cross. In the place of and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God for His mercy and grace!

Pastor: May God, who began this definite plan before He created the world, continue to work in you and bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thank You, Lord, for loving me, forgiving me, and having a definite plan for me.

(Share the Peace of Christ with those around you)

HYMN OF PRAISE The Lord, My God, Be Praised” 794

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, there are days we do not even know what to plan for dinner. Yet You have had a definite plan for this world and each one of us before You created it. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to trust in Your plan of salvation through the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God and one Lord, now and eternally.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 6:1–8* (The prophet Isaiah is overcome by his sinfulness and God’s holiness.)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Acts 2:14a, 22–36* (Three thousand people heard Peter’s message of the resurrection of Jesus and Him being both true God and the Messiah.)

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

“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— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 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;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 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, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that

we all are witnesses. 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. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.’

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Isaiah 6:3b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

People: the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17* (Nicodemus, the “teacher of Israel,” is taken to school by Jesus, who shares God’s plan of salvation in a nutshell.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I

tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Holy, Holy, Holy” 507

SERMON God’s Definite Plan Acts 2:22-36

CREED *Athanasian Creed*

Pastor: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

People: Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

Pastor: And the catholic faith is this,

People: that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

Pastor: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

People: But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Pastor: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

People: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

Pastor: the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

People: the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

Pastor: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

People: just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

Pastor: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

People: and yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

Pastor: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

People: and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

Pastor: So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

People: and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Pastor: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

People: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

Pastor: The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

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

Pastor: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

People: And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

Pastor: but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

People: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

Pastor: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

Pastor: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

People: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

Pastor: equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

People: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

Pastor: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

People: one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

Pastor: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
People: who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

Pastor: ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

People: At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

Pastor: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

People: This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

after all of the prayers have been prayed, we finish with:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

CLOSING BLESSING *Numbers 6:23–26*

Pastor: When God gave Aaron and his sons the benediction, He said, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them.’”
Receive, therefore, with believing hearts, the benediction of our God:

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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “God Bless Our Native Land”

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