

## TRINITY SUNDAY

*Mount Calvary, West View 05/27/18*

ISAIAH 6: 1-8, ACTS 2:14-36, JOHN 3:1-17

Hymns: LSB 498 - Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest  
LSB 507 - Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
LSB 907 - God Himself is Present  
LSB 905 ó Come Thou Almighty King

Theme: These Are A Few of My Heavenly Things

**+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is from the Gospel of St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter:

***“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.***

It would be my guess that when you saw the sermon title for today you thought I might start singing Julia Andrews' *My Favorite things* from the Sound of Music. Sorry to disappoint, but you would be wrong. Besides, did you know there is something wrong in that song? Indeed, though I myself may like schnitzel and noodles, nothing like a nice braised pork and thick noodles to fill up the tummy, in Austria, no respecting Austrian would eat noodles with their schnitzel. Just throwing it out there.

As for why I have decided to title our meditation as these are a few of my heavenly things we need to understand this is Trinity Sunday. This is one of my favorite Sundays

for it once again gives the opportunity to declare that our God is ONE. As stated in Deuteronomy 6:4, *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”* Even from the beginning, Our God has been a singular God in three persons, as Saint Paul addressed, *“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one LORD, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”* (1 Corinthians 8:6). And not to be forgotten, we have the wonderfully detailed Athanasian Creed which explains our faith concisely and appropriately for worship use, *“So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.* All these things identify one of my heavenly things, which I hope is yours as well, my triune God and Lord, my Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier that has made me what I am today ó a child of God through faith.

Another of my heavenly things is the Liturgy and Hymns that has been passed down from generation to generation. The Liturgy has been since of old, and as such has been handed down from heaven, not as gospel that can never be changed, but as good order that can assist us in proper worship of the Triune God and keep us from flailing off into some social gospel that ignores the presence of God. I would say the same of our time-tested hymns that have withstood generations and are still sung today. Holy, Holy, Holy! is such a hymn, chosen as the sermon hymn. Written in the early 1800s, by an Anglican no less, it has survived to this day as the chosen hymn for Trinity Sunday. Well it should, for it weaves a grand tapestry of how we should honor the Triune God every

morning, for the Saints that have gone before do so even now! We should praise the Triune God even though this world does not recognize Him nor fears Him. Yet, we who in faith *do* recognize Him, hear His Word, and rejoice in our forgiveness, have no fear to come before Him and be in His holy presence.

Which leads me to another heavenly thing: His Word. With the Word of God, we hear again His comfort and peace that tells us we are forgiven children of the Heavenly Father. That though I know that due to my many sins and the things I have done wrong I deserve no good thing that falls from the master's table, He still gives me a place at the table, offers me the bounty of body and blood simply by faith for the forgiveness of those wretched sins, and though the Holy Spirit resting upon me, I can live a life as a new creation desiring to fulfill the works of God to His glory!

All this through another heavenly thing ó the cross of Christ Jesus. The ultimate heavenly thing we have is Christ Himself, Who, though He is Lord and Christ, left Heaven to come to us born of a virgin meek and mild. He came to you as an infant so that He would grow as you, enduring everything that you have to endure in your life growing up and growing old, and more so. Jesus did everything for you without falling for this world's sin or its glamour. He fought the devil face to face and even when the whole world was against Him, placing Him upon that cross of shame at Calvary, Jesus died so that you would live, and He is risen Indeed, that you may know the height and width and length and breadth of His love for you ó it surpasses all knowledge! That you may now be filled

with the fullness of God ó how much more comfort do you need than that?! As I said above, He offers Himself for the forgiveness of sins, and through His death you have life. He offers His death in the waters of baptism, for in drowning the old man with all sins and lusts for this life, we emerge a New Man willing to do all that our Triune God asks, and that includes telling others about our salvation.

Ah, yes, another heavenly thing! Indeed, it is a wonderful heavenly thing to tell people about this God we have that has created us, redeemed us and sanctifies us through the Word and Sacraments we prize so highly. With the guidance of the Holy Ghost, you can speak great things of the Savior for you. You say you cannot? You say you are not capable of speaking of such heavenly thing to the people you meet? Hear again how God makes His Word go forth upon the lips of mortal men and women: ***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!”*** (Does that sound like you?) ***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.”*** Does this sound like you now? You are a new creation created by God to do great works of the kingdom which He

has predestined for you long before you knew you were to do them; ***For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.***

Many a heavenly thing we have today: a Triune God of Father, Son and Holy Ghost; a Creator, a Redeemer, and a Sanctifier; a Word that proclaims Who He Is and the Salvation that comes from the Risen Christ; a Liturgy that allows us to praise this One True God rightly and orderly, as well as timeless hymns to praise His name aright. All this we have now, to be able to do the work that is about to come to us, if we are willing to stand up and say, ***õHear am I, send me!ö*** since we have been born of water and the Spirit as Jesus so promised through the Word in our Baptism, we have the timeless message to give to a dying world, ***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.*** The world will be saved through your message of the Risen and forgiving Christ. This is the Christ the world needs. It believes the Christ is either non-existent, or is an angry God needing to be appeased. You can change all that. You offer Christ and His forgiveness through the work of the Holy Trinity, and you have given the whole of heaven, the very heavenly thing of eternal life. In His Most Holy Name, we Pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL  
UNDERSTANDING KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH  
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of  
judgment**