

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*at*

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**a reconciling in Christ congregation**



## Holy Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2021

10:30 am

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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## Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

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## Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, **YOU ARE WELCOME** to participate in Communion. There are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Announcements

**Prelude**                    *“All Glory Be to God On High”*  
(Plainsong - arr. J.Madow)

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with  
God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of  
baptism.

*(Water may be poured into the font.)*

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit  
moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of  
the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you  
led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your  
Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you  
for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you  
for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you  
be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn** ELW #415

*“Father Most Holy”*

- 1 Father most holy, merciful, and tender;  
Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning;  
Spirit of comfort, advocate, defender,  
light never waning.**
- 2 Trinity blessed, unity unshaken;  
goodness unbounded, very God of heaven,  
light of the angels, joy of those forsaken,  
hope of all living.**
- 3 Maker of all things, all thy creatures praise thee;  
all for thy worship were and are created;  
now, as we also worship thee devoutly,  
hear thou our voices.**
- 4 Lord God Almighty, unto thee be glory,  
one in three persons, over all exalted!  
Glory we offer, praise thee and adore thee,  
now and forever.**

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.

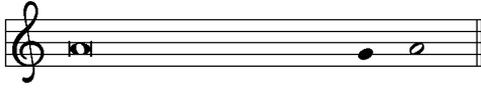
Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal* © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

**\*Greeting**

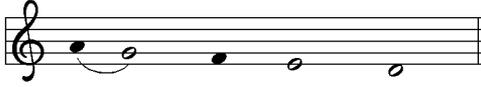
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**\*Kyrie** (Congregation please quietly sing parts in bold)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



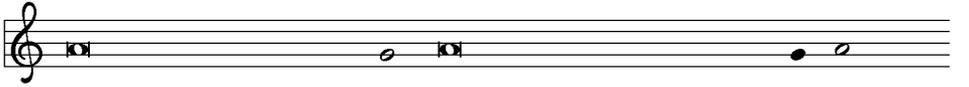
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**\*Canticle of Praise** (congregation sing quietly after 1<sup>st</sup> line)

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

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

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 29

*(Spoken responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory  
thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips  
the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned asking forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \* Gospel

John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born

from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** - The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

### ***\*Athanasian Creed***

**Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith.**

**Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally.**

**Now this is the catholic faith: We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.**

**For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another.**

**But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty.**

**What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.**

**Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.**

**The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite.**

**Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit:**

**And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal; as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited.**

**Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit: And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.**

**Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God: And yet there are not three gods, but one God.**

**Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord: And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.**

**As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.**

**The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.**

**Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.**

**And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.**

**Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.**

**It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus became flesh.**

**For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

**He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father, and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother—existing fully as God, and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body; equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.**

**Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.**

**He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity.**

**He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures.**

**For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man.**

**He suffered death for our salvation.**

**He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds.**

**Those who have done good will enter eternal life, those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.**

**This is the catholic faith.**

**One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.**

## Hymn of the Day - ELW # 412

### *“Come, Join the Dance of Trinity”*

- 1** Come, join the dance of Trinity,  
before all worlds begun—  
the interweaving of the Three,  
the Father, Spirit, Son.  
The universe of space and time  
did not arise by chance,  
but as the Three, in love and hope,  
made room within their dance.
  
- 2** Come, see the face of Trinity,  
newborn in Bethlehem;  
then bloodied by a crown of thorns  
outside Jerusalem.  
The dance of Trinity is meant  
for human flesh and bone;  
when fear confines the dance in death,  
God rolls away the stone.
  
- 3** Come, speak aloud of Trinity,  
as wind and tongues of flame  
set people free at Pentecost  
to tell the Savior's name.  
We know the yoke of sin and death,  
our necks have worn it smooth;  
go tell the world of weight and woe  
that we are free to move!

*(continued on following page)*

**4 Within the dance of Trinity,  
before all worlds begun,  
we sing the praises of the Three,  
the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Let voices rise and interweave,  
by love and hope set free,  
to shape in song this joy, this life:  
the dance of Trinity.**

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

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### **\* Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation. Led by your Spirit, let us work towards a world where all enjoy peace in your creation.

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for healing for all those who suffer. Give respite to those living with illness or any other health concerns including those we mention on our prayer list.... and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for this worshiping community, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

### \* **The Sharing of the Peace**

*(remain seated and gesture a sign of peace to those around you.)*

P: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

\* **Presentation of Gifts** *(Please join in speaking.)*

*“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”*

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

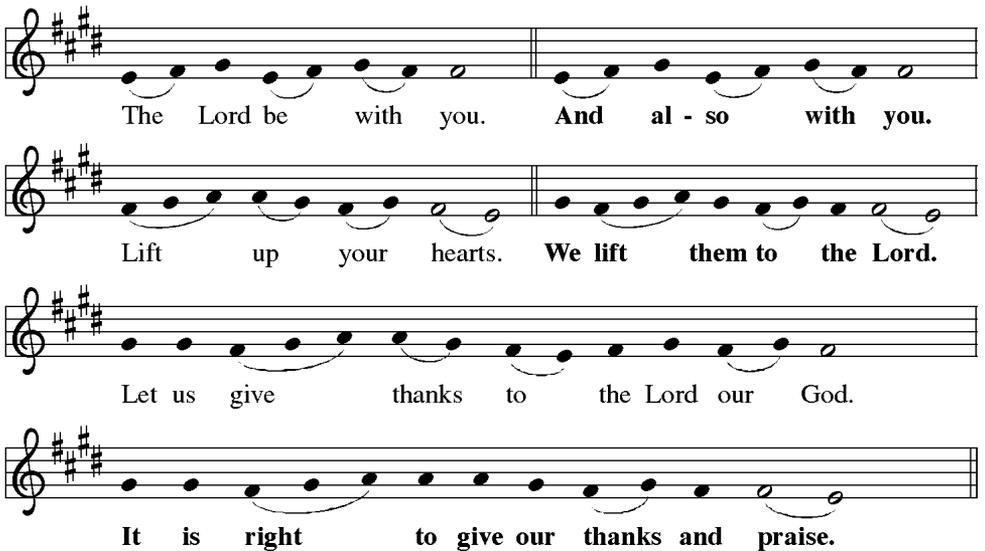
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### \*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

### \*Great Thanksgiving *(Congregation sing response quietly.)*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **\*Preface**

*(Pastor continues . . .)*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all time and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.

You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the  
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## ***Communion Form***

*(Pastor continues ... )*

## **\*Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table here at St. John's.*

*\*Please remain seated, communion  
will be offered to you in your pew.  
(Please ask for gluten free or grape juice if necessary.)*

**Communion Music**      “*Hymn Medley*”

**\* Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*Blessing**

P: The blessing of God, who provided for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

*(Please remain in your seat until the candles have been extinguished and the Pastor has left the Sanctuary.)*

## Postlude

“Kingsfold” arr. J. Madow

(English folk tune used in our hymn of the day)

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## Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

**Worship Assistant** – Jim Heck  
**Ushers** – Michelle Fritzo / Barbara Horinko  
**Reader** – Monica Weiss-Nolen  
**Altar Guild** – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

### This Week at St. John's: May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>

**Today** (5/30/21) – Worship, 10:30 am, “Holy Trinity”

**Monday** (5/31/21) – Office Closed – “Memorial Day”

**Tuesday** (6/1/21) – Vicar Jamie Edelman Starts

**Tuesday** (6/1/21) – Bible Study – “Luke”, 5:30 pm - Chapel

**Thursday** (6/3/21) – Bible Study – “The Epistles”, 5:30 pm - Chapel

**Friday** (6/4/21) – Synod Assembly

**Saturday** (6/5/21) – Synod Assembly

**Sunday** (6/6/21) – Worship, 9:30 am start

**Sunday** (6/6/21) – Vicar Reception, following Worship

**Sunday** (6/6/21) – Finance Meeting, following Worship

*Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
by Connie Garr*



**Attendance:** 5/23/21 –52 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,715.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$41,619.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$47,355.00

**Summer Worship Hours: Beginning June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please Join us at 9:30 am.**

*Please Note:*

*In spite of various, sometimes confusing news about masks, St. John's is still wearing masks during worship and meetings.*

*We ask that you please comply.*

*Once Council approves new mitigation for the building, likely June 6<sup>th</sup>, changes will go into effect.*



Welcome Reception for:

*Vicar Jamie Edelman*

June 6<sup>th</sup>, (following worship)

*Please Join Us*

(outdoors, in the parking lot.)

## *We are a Praying Church!*

*Prayer Concerns:* Marge, Chuck, Anthony, Shirley, Kathy, Deanna, Karen, Bob, Dave, Dawn, Serena and Baby, Katherine, Don, Judy, Denelle, Paula, Jim & Shirley, William, Jane, Walter, Karen, Reverend Koch, Kevin, Carmen, Jim, Eva, Lori, Terry, Mariza, Jean, Gail, Daniel, Matthew, and the Family and Friends Chris Swan & Gloria Brown

*If you have any prayer requests or needs, please let us know, and let us pray for you.*

*We invite you to take this prayer list home and pray.*

*Prayer Requests can be added by contacting the church office at 610-258-6119 or email [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org), or by filling out a request from the pew cards.*



(Requested will be removed at the beginning of the following month unless notified.)

# *Celebration of the Trinity*

Trinity Sunday is a day that celebrates and honors the Holy Trinity. We commemorate and celebrate God who is three in one: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday falls on the Sunday after Pentecost.

At the many festivals during winter and spring we celebrate events that are related to God the Creator, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. On Trinity Sunday we celebrate not an event but a reality: God three in one, a unity.



## **THREE IN ONE**

On the Festival of the Holy Trinity. It is common that we confess the Athanasian Creed. It is one of the three ecumenical creeds of the Lutheran Church, the others being the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. The Athanasian Creed is used today because of its focus on the Triune God.