



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Trinity Sunday

31 May 2015

Sentence

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6.3

Prayer of the day

Enfolding God, Trinity of love,
you are our source, our goal, our life:
may we be born again in you
no more to live
alone and unconnected,
but sharing the Spirit's breath
and carried to your heart;
through Jesus Christ, who lifts us up. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah has a vision of God's glory, and in this same moment, sees his own nature as a creature of God who falls far short of God's vision for humanity. Notice the source for the beautiful affirmation we make during the Eucharist, "Holy, holy, holy..."

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. 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. And one called to another and said:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 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!

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 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. 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!

Isaiah 6:1-8

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

ALL **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 29 at 8am APBA, page 248 **at 10am** Choir

This psalm is a hymn to the God of the storm, the mighty creator of nature itself. Above the tumult of the storm, God reigns in majestic peace.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to live in relationship with God as God truly desires – that we live adopted as God’s own children, sisters and brothers of the risen Lord who share his life and call out to God by his intimate name, ‘Abba’. The Spirit’s prompting us to pray demonstrates that we are indeed adopted as God’s own.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 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! it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.

Romans 8:12-17

Reader May your word live in us

ALL **And bear much fruit to your glory**

Comment on the gospel reading.

Jesus encounters the Judaism of his day when he meets with Nicodemus. This story is full of symbolism, beginning with the Pharisee who comes from the darkness of the night and world outside into the light, to meet

Jesus who is the light of the world. Jesus explains to this learned teacher in Israel that God's life or kingdom is entered by being transformed inwardly, and not only outwardly. So complete is this transformation that can only be spoken of as if person is born again – this time from above – and begins live anew. Martin Luther called verse 16 'the gospel in miniature'. God's purpose is to save, to bring eternal life (participation in God's life) but people judge themselves by hiding their evil deeds (sense of shame and guilt) from the light of Christ's holiness. Once we bring who we are into that light we know ourselves loved and forgiven but first we have to risk the shame and potential rejection to discover this profoundly re-birthing truth.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!

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

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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. Jesus answered him, Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. 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? Jesus answered, Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, You must be born from above. 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. Nicodemus said to him, How can these things be? Jesus answered him, Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 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 .

John 3:1-17

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Bible Readings next week Second Sunday after Pentecost.

Genesis 3.8-15 Ps 130 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 Mark 3.20-35

Pray for the Faithful Departed Herbert William Satchell,
Auther Mansell, Noel Willsmore, Dorothy Valentine, Jocelyn Margaret
Ray, Robina Bisset, Harold Hood, William Ian Lowry
whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the Week

31 May The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.

Recorded in Luke 1.39-45, followed by Mary's song of praise, Luke 1.46-55, which is best known from its use in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as the Magnificat, being the first word of the first line in Latin. Falling on a Sunday, this year the feast is omitted.

June 1 Justin, martyr at Rome (d. c.167). Became a Christian c.130 and is classed as the first Christian philosopher. Martyred for his faith under the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, refusing the sacrifice to the gods. **June 3 The martyrs of Uganda (d. 1886) and Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda (d. 1977).** The martyrs, the Anglican bishop, James Hannington, and many Ugandan Christians,

were killed by a tyrannical and depraved Chief, Mwanga. A decade later thousands joined the church, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church". Luxam was martyred by the Dictator, Idi Amin, for fearlessly standing up for the victims and the oppressed.

June 3 Pope John XXIII, bishop of Rome and reformer (1881-1963). He inaugurated the second Vatican Council, the most radical reform of the Roman Catholic church since the Council of Trent in the 16th century.

June 5 Boniface of Mainz, bishop and martyr (c.675-754). Born in Devon, England, became a monk and schoolteacher, but gave up a fruitful career to become a missionary to Frisia in 716. Conditions were politically impossible and he returned to England and then went to Rome. Here the Pope, Gregory II, assigned him as a missionary to Bavaria and Hesse and he worked in Frisia and these two regions of Germany till he was murdered by a group of pagans.