

**The Feast of The HOLY TRINITY, 2020**  
*Virtual Grace*

Organ Prelude -

*“Come, thou Almighty King”*

Hymnal 1982 #365

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Hello and welcome again to “Virtual Grace”  
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,  
on this holy feast day as we honor the Blessed Trinity of God.

For any who are just joining us, let me introduce myself:

I’m Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish.

We are grateful to all who have been walking “Virtual Grace”

and are offering thanksgiving that we can open our doors for worship -  
sadly, still with limitations and regulations for the safety of all.

For that reason, we are glad to continue offering these video services.

Remember, if you are in any pastoral need at all, call me, 24/7.

I am more than ready to come to your spiritual aid and visit -  
sadly, still with a mask!

We are grateful for those who have been able to make your sacrifices  
in offerings and contributions.

If you are able, help us to continue the various ministries of Grace Church  
through your contributions.

Come now, and let us bless the Lord together.

In the name of God the Creator, ✝ God the Sustainer, God who Sanctifies. Amen.

*CONFESSIO*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith,  
strengthen us in all goodness, ☩ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us  
in eternal life. Amen.

Join with me, as you are able, in offering God praise in The Gloria.

*CANTICLE* -

Glory to God

BCP p.356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*COLLECT*

“Of the Holy Trinity,” The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, p. 251

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your eternal Being of  
glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give  
us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith, and  
constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for you live  
and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 3: 1-6, 11-15*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."

When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Here ends the Reading.

### PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
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!"  
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.  
The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## SECOND READING

*Romans 11:33-36*

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

## *MEDITATION*

Some of us are old enough to remember Popeye -

and I don't mean Louisiana's Chicken Restaurants -

I'm referencing the old cartoons, even a movie with Robin Williams.

The canned spinach-eating hero / sailor, with Olive Oyle and 'frenemy' Bluto.

His iconic saying was, “I am’s what I am’s, and that’s all that I am’s.”

When Moses asks God who his is, God answers the same,

in Hebrew the word is YHWH, “I am.”

(For you witnesses, the Germans put other vowels to the Hebrew consonants,  
and gave us, “Jehovah.”)

Robert Alter in his acclaimed translation and commentary of the Hebrew Bible,

notes that “rivers of ink have [*since*] flowed in theological reflection on,

and philosophical analysis, of this name.” *The Hebrew Bible, vol. 1, p.222*

Alter reminds the reader of the many interpretations of the ancient Hebrew word,

“YHWH.”

One of the traditional possibilities he offers, and the one I like

(though he takes a different approach) is the, not don’t get lost,

the causative form of the verb “to be” or the one who causes things to be:

as Alter says, “He who Brings Things into Being,”

or as I like to think of it - God is simply “Being-ness.”

So, Father, what does this have to do with the Holy Trinity on this feast day?

First of all, both are mysteries. We can’t explain either the Name or the Trinity.

The Holy Trinity is mentioned in Scripture only in spurious later additions.

God is made known, Jesus we know, and the Holy Spirit is offered.

But only rarely are the three connected.

But it is easy to connect the three of the essences of God in that evasive Name.

Yahweh, “I AM”

“Being-ness.”

The normal first reading on this feast of the Holy Trinity is the opening of Genesis.  
God says to God's self: "Let us create."

so first of all, who is God talking to?

Another mystery.

But the message is that God, from the beginning, is the source of being.

God gives Life. First.

But then humans - you and I - screw life up.

And God gives Salvation. Second.

And to do that, God gives Sanctification. Third.

First, Creator;

Second, Savior;

Third, Holiness.

The Blessed Trinity, all summed up in the Name: "I AM."

God is,

and God wants us to be.

That is the message today for this celebration of the Blessed Trinity.

God gives life, humans destroy it,

we Christians, given life, restored in Christ, and made holy,

are called to do what we can to restore humanity -

honoring the dignity of every human being.

May the power of God's Holy Spirit fill us to do God's re-Creative

and Restorative work in this broken world.

"Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than  
we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in  
the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever."

*Ephesians 3: 20-21*

AMEN!

*The CREED*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection † of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS*

*BCP Form II, adapted*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people

I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

I ask your prayers for Pastor Miguel Arenas as he celebrates his last services at Central United Methodist Church and for their parish as they prepare for their new pastor.

I ask your prayers for those who govern and hold authority in the nations; that they may be led to govern with equity and justice to benefit the entire human family. Inspire them to discover new ways of overcoming divisions and mistrust. We pray for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

I ask your prayers for those who rejoice this week; for James and Will, celebrating their marriage; for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries: especially Ed Jellock.

I ask your prayers for our High School graduates as they enter into new journeys: Libby Stephens, Jared Peer, Leo Kehagias, Vincent Modugno, George Carl, and Brian Wyckoff.

I ask your prayers for the poor, for those who are on furlough or have lost their jobs; for the sick, especially Libby, Russ, Bill and Rob; the hungry; the oppressed, and anxious; and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell. I ask your prayers for those anticipating death, especially Jim.

I ask your prayers for the departed; those who have died by violent acts, and those who have succumbed to the complications of COVID-19.

I ask your thanksgiving for families with whom we live and love; thanksgivings for first responders, health-care workers and all who offer of themselves for the betterment of others.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us now pray together in the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

Our Father...

### “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God”

*From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God.” This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.*

God of all power and love,  
we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.  
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:  
    a people who pray, worship, learn,  
    break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
    bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
    unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
    that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*BLESSING*

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Organ Postlude -

*“Holy, holy, holy”*

Hymnal 1982 #362

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