

Confirmation Instruction – October 3, 2021 – God’s Name Is Revealed

Welcome

- Prayer
- Questions from last week’s class or readings?

Review: Who Am I? (See Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 21:1-3; 22:1-14; 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17)

Abraham	Esau	God	God	Isaac	Jacob	Rebekah	Sarah
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I gave birth to my son, Isaac, when I was 90 years old. *Who am I?* _____

My twin brother tricked me out of my birthright and my father’s blessing. *Who am I?* _____

When my son asked, “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” I told him God would provide.
Who am I? _____

I blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day I rested from all my work of creation. *Who am I?* _____

I helped my son pretend he was his hairy, older brother by putting animal skins on his face and hands. *Who am I?* _____

With a stone for a pillow, I slept on the ground. In a dream, God promised to be with me wherever I go. *Who am I?* _____

I lost my eyesight as I grew old. I told my firstborn son to hunt game and cook it for me, so that I could give him my blessing. *Who am I?* _____

I promised to give land to Jacob and his offspring. I promised to bless all the families of the earth in them. *Who am I?* _____

Law and Gospel in Today’s Reading

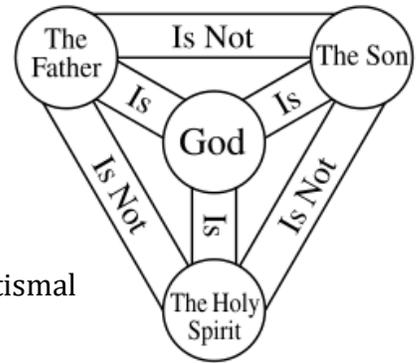
	Law (What is the problem? What are people supposed to be doing?)	Gospel (What is God doing for us?)
Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17		

Seven Key Faith Practices for Christian Disciples

Worship | Pray | Study | Serve | Give | Invite | Encourage

How to Encounter the Holy Trinity as One God in Three Persons

- *The Lutheran Handbook*, pp. 134-135
- Three persons of the Holy Trinity:
 - God the Father
 - God the Son (Jesus Christ)
 - God the Holy Spirit
- Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission) - Trinitarian baptismal formula
- The Three Ecumenical Creeds (see pp. 3-4 of this handout)
 - What is a creed? A brief statement encapsulating our faith. “*Credo*” is Latin for “I believe.”
 - The Apostles’ Creed - used at baptism
 - The Nicene Creed - clarifies the relationship among the three persons of God and affirms the two natures of Jesus Christ (human and divine)
 - The Athanasian Creed - expands on the concepts of one God in three persons and the two natures of Jesus



Discussion Questions

- Which faith practices did you notice in our reading from Exodus 2-4?
- What place(s) do you think of as being “holy ground”? Why?
- Why might Moses have been afraid to look at God?
- When have you said or thought, “please send someone else”?
Why are we sometimes reluctant to be leaders?
- God tells Moses that God’s name is “I AM WHO I AM” and tells him to say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” How do you talk about who God is when you share your faith with someone?
- How are the creeds helpful in articulating our faith? How are they problematic?



About the Image: Moses at the Burning Bush, 1922, Ephraim Moses Lilien (Jewish illustrator and printmaker, born in Poland) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mose_am_Dornbusch.jpg

Daily Readings

- *Monday* – Exodus 5:1-13
- *Tuesday* - Exodus 7:14-25; 8:1-15
- *Wednesday* - Exodus 8:16-32; 9:1-12
- *Thursday* - Exodus 9:13-35; 10:1-29
- *Friday* - Exodus 12:1-32
- *Saturday* - Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-25
- *Sunday, October 10* – Exodus 16:1-18 (God Provides Manna)

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 Christ 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.