

[OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Proclaim the Name: ‘The Lord, the Lord,
a God who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and
faithfulness.’ Exodus 34.6

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleansing the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your
mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it:
You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 22.37–40, Mark 12.30–31

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us therefore bring our sins before the one true God, in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what
we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all
your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given to us your servants grace
by the confession of a true faith
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of the divine majesty
to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
and evermore defend us from all adversities,
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PAUSE VIDEO

PART 2 — 2 VIDEOS, ONE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, AND ANOTHER ALL AGE VIDEO FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY Sam White AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL [HERE](#)

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE SERMON PODCAST (READ ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY LIBBY PATERSON

READINGS

Exodus 34:1-8

Song of the Three

Blessed are you, the God of our forebears:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed is your holy and glorious name:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, glorious in your holy temple:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you who behold the depths:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you in the heights of heaven:
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Matthew 28:16-20

In the name of our God, Creator, Liberator, and Sustainer. Amen.

A social God

Trinity Sunday is a special Sunday for celebrating God.

Other Sundays are named after events, or seasons, sometimes one or more saints.

Trinity Sunday is about the Triune God we know as Father, Son, and Spirit; or Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, or as in my prayer, Creator, Liberator and Sustainer.

God's name says something about who God is.

God is social.

Human beings, made in the image of God, are social.

This is why a 'relationship with God', though sounding tacky, is actually real.

This is not exclusively a Christian notion, though it became far more developed through the revelation of Jesus Christ; in Judaism, Israel's tradition was and still is, very much a relationship with God. Their God given name 'Israel' means 'to strive with God'.

Most relationships have to strive don't they?

Moses and God brainstorm

The context for today's Old Testament reading is a case in point.

To fill you in on the couple of chapters:

the Ten Commandments were given to Moses at Mt Sinai,

meanwhile the people of Israel got tired of waiting

and made a cow of a god out of gold and worshipped it in a frenzy

until Moses (informed by God as to what was going on)

arrived in a fury, smashed the tablets,

disciplined the people (there was a lot of pain, death and a great unease)

and returned up the mountain to intercede for them before God.

The notable thing about this story, is the way Moses and God talk.

God's voice may well be coming out of a cloud, yet the conversation sounds like natural, it actually sounds like a boss talking with his PA:

Says God, 'I'm going to fire those people. They're hopeless. But you have potential. I'll keep you.'

Says Moses, 'Are you sure that's wise or necessary? Does it really fit in with the policies you're pursuing? Won't it rebound on you? Why don't you sleep on it?'

And being a wise boss, God took notice of his PA.

Actually as a wise boss, he was probably trying out his ideas on his PA

and inviting a response and involving another in the decision making.

The conversation resumed as God declared he would not continue the journey with Israel:

Go on to the Promised Land, but I will not go with you. I'll send an angel.

On hearing this, the people of Israel mourned,

maybe because they just realised what they had lost.

Moses plays the part of the mediator, akin to a marriage counsellor.

He is up and down that mountain, and in and out of the tent of meeting so many times

he is likely to be the aerobic champion of Israel.

God trusted Moses and on the whole the people of Israel trusted him too

(they complained a lot, but they trusted him too).

So back on Mt Sinai:

Says Moses, 'Who exactly is going with us? It's your presence we need.

Now us two here are on pretty good terms, tell me what you want, I can do it.

All of us are here because of you, remember?'

Says God in a sort of ambiguous way, 'I'll see you through, you'll be all right.'
Says Moses, 'Let's just nail this down a bit shall we?
If you're not there with us personally,
no one is going to know that we are your people.
We're not going to look like your treasured possession without you.
How can we stand out from other nations
without your presence and your guidance?'
Says God, 'It's a deal. I will do the very thing that you have asked for. I will go with you.'

A further insight to God

Thus Moses restored and secured the relationship between God and Israel.

Then, impulsively it seems, he asks, *Show me your glory, I pray.*

And God says,

I will make my goodness pass before you, and proclaim my name ... yet no one can see me and live ... there is a place by me where you can stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.

This is the set up for today's chapter, a further insight into God. Moses, in the cleft of the rock, hears what sounds like a song from God:

***'The Lord, the Lord,
a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation,
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,
yet by no means clearing the guilty,
but visiting the iniquity of the parents
upon the children
and the children's children,
to the third and the fourth generation.'***

Mercy, graciousness, and slow to anger is the character of God as experienced by Israel.

The steadfast love and faithfulness is that which always gave them hope.

The whole tradition of repentance goes beyond Christianity back to this time in Judaism, where to receive forgiveness of transgressions and sin, one only had to come back and ask.

Repent means to return. And one could decide not to, not believing it is possible, or an endeavour to block out the iniquity and go on forth alone.

According to the tradition, to the story, the iniquity does not go away. We might understand this as consequences of the unresolved that results in cycles of unhealthy to disastrous behaviour.

Religious faith provides a pathway on which to return in order to be restored, renewed, or reconciled.

Moses, deeper in his understanding of the Lord, quickly bows his head toward the earth and worships. He says: ***"If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."***

And it was so!

Let us pray:

***O God, you are holy and yet choose to journey with your people in our struggles and failures.
May we always turn to you and accept your help, to know your loving presence,
you our God, Creator, Liberator and Sustainer. Amen.***

INTERCESSIONS BY LIBBY PATERSON

Let us pray,

Great God and Heavenly Father: You are the God of all compassion and comfort. We thank you that you listen to our prayers, and we give thanks that you are ever attentive to our concerns and needs, especially at this time in a world of uncertainty and increasing turmoil.

We give thanks for this seasonal time of varying autumnal hues, of nourishing rains and of plentiful food, but we pray for the world where sickness and rising political turmoil have ravaged the continents. We pray that you would be with leaders and governments of all nations. Give them the insight to act with clarity of thought, to have the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term political and health solutions that will help prepare for, and prevent, future predicted virus outbreaks. May the leaders know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

We pray for those who govern us in this land, for our Prime minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers and for their courageous leadership and national cooperation across the states and territories. Grant that they may have continued wisdom in their decisions as they navigate the threats to lives and livelihoods in the days to come. May all Australians respect the work of all who have contributed to the safety of the public during the pandemic, and may we all accept the necessary limitations on our freedoms and seek the welfare of others, for the good of all.

We thank you for all who have dedicated their lives to serving our community, for health workers and first responders, for all in essential services and for all who labour long hours in laboratories seeking a vaccine for the Covid-19. Give them wisdom, skill and patience in their work, and by your grace, give them success in their endeavours. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Compassionate God, please draw close to the anxious and troubled hearts of fellow Australians who now face uncertainty regarding financial stress and employment issues arising from the pandemic. Please protect them and their families from long term economic damage and guide them day by day and step by step through this crisis.

We pray that you might sustain all those involved in education at this time. As schools seek to continue their important work in stressful and difficult circumstances, we would ask that you keep teachers and students safe and help them to care for each other. We pray for all who are facing critical points in their education and ask for a diligence in study that is surrounded at every point by a calm confidence in you and your provision. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the *church* at home and abroad; and ask, dear Lord, that you would be with all church leaders who are making decisions that would affect so many of your people and their fellowships together. In a time when we cannot come together, we rely on guidance and communication. We give thanks for the clear directions and instructions that have been given to local congregations in order to maintain contact with the church services and provide spiritual feeding. Sustain all Christian persons and remind us that we do not need to make the journey of life on our own, in our own strength, but that you are here, as close to us as our own breath, to fill our hearts with your love. Surround us with your powerful protective arms and guide us in your path. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

At this time, we commend to your keeping, Father, ourselves, and each other; our families and our neighbours; our friends and all other people of this city. Help us to lay aside our own concerns. Focus our attention and care upon all who are most vulnerable and isolated among us. May we first pursue the good of others, just as you did; those who are most anxious, fearful, sick and lonely. May we mirror to others, the Fatherly attention and care you daily show us.

Father, all our hope is in you. We trust your promises and look forward to the day to come when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to bring all your promises to their fulfillment. It is in his name we pray. *Amen*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

RESUME VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also 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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.
By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Through him, you have revealed to us your glory in the community of your love, three persons,
one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours forever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (inspired by 1 John)

We believe in God the Father,
who reveals his love to us in Christ.
We believe in God the Son,
who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who teaches us God's truth.
We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

— written by Michael Perry

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/05/affirmation-of-faith-1-john.html>

AFTER COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, may we who have received this sacrament of your Son's body and blood worship you in all we do, proclaim your word to all the world, and live in the power of your Spirit.

Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

BLESSING

**God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in all truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.**