



**The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles**  
**The Family Service in the Season of Trinity**

**HOW CAN THIS BE?**

**We sing a hymn**

And one seraph called to another and said:  
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.' *Isaiah 6.3*

*The minister may say*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All **Amen.***

**The Invitation to Confession**

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

*cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

## **The General Confession**

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:

Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

### **The Collect for the Season of Trinity**

**ALMIGHTY** and everlasting God,

who hast given unto us thy 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:

We beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in  
this faith,

and evermore defend us from all adversities,

who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

Amen.

<b>We sing a hymn</b>
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**We may say one of the Psalms that is set for today**

**The Introduction to the Bible reading/s**

**One or more readings from the Bible**

**The Address**

**We sing a hymn**

**The Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We come boldly to the throne of grace,  
praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
*for mercy and grace.*

**All: We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Father of heaven, whose love profound  
a ransom for our souls has found:

We pray for the world, created by your love,  
for its nations and governments ...

*Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and  
grace.*

**All: We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:

We pray for the Church, created for your glory,  
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...

*Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.*

**All: We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
the soul is raised from sin and death:

We pray for families and individuals, created in your im-  
age,  
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...  
Breathe on them the breath of life  
*and bring them to your mercy and grace.*

**All: We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:  
We pray for ourselves,  
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you  
...

Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,  
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eter-  
nity,  
*as we worship you, saying,*

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **The Peace**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you

**All: and also with you.**

## **Closing Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God,

you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit,

and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:

hold us firm in this faith,

that we may know you in all your ways

and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,

who are three Persons yet one God,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side,

and guide you in truth and peace;

and the blessing ...

*All* **Amen.**

## We sing a hymn

IN A little book on the writing of his novel, *The Name of the Rose* (1980), Umberto Eco acknowledged that the title did not give any clues as to the content.

Rather than apologising for this, he pointed to what he considered one of the best titles ever devised — *The Three Musketeers*. It was a master-stroke, he said, because it was really about the fourth musketeer (*Reflections on the Name of the Rose*, Secker & Warburg, 1985).

This paradox helps us understand the Doctrine of the Trinity: of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Paradoxically, many of the readings set for Trinity Sunday point not to God but to people. We do not begin with the Trinitarian God and ask how he can be such, but with the world of particulars, cross, empty tomb, forgiven and believing apostles, asking, 'How can this be?'

Taken from: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2017/9-june/faith/sunday-s-readings/trinity-sunday>



**Icon of the Holy Trinity / the Hospitality of Abraham.  
Andrei Rublov (Андрей Рублёв )1360s – 1427.**

Andrei Rublev painted *The Hospitality of Abraham* in 1411 for the abbot of the Trinity Monastery in Russia. Rublov portrayed what has become the quintessential icon of the Holy Trinity by depicting the three mysterious strangers who visited Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15).

Many in Rublev's culture were confused by the doctrine of the Trinity and others rejected it altogether. Rublov's Trinity showed them an understanding of God as Three-in-One that is beyond trying to "figure out."

Almost 600 years later Rublev's icon continues to draw people into the mysterious and wonderful presence of the Trinity.

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