Blessed the Holy Trinity* and the Undivided Unity:
Let us give glory to Him*
For He has shown mercy unto us.
O Lord, our Lord,*
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
You have set Your glory above the heavens!*
Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants, You have or- dained strength.
What is man that You are mindful of him,*
and the son of man that You visit him?
For You have made him a little lower than the angels,*
and You have crowned him with glory and honor.
BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
Evening: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

1. We all believe in one true God,
   Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love
   Hath the right of children given.
He both soul and body feedeth,
   All we need He doth provide us:
He through snares and perils leadeth,
   Watching that no harm betide us.
He careth for us day and night,
   All things are governed by His might.

2. We all believe in Jesus Christ,
   His own Son, our Lord, possessing
Hath the right of children given.
   He both soul and body feedeth,
All we need He doth provide us:
   He through snares and perils leadeth,
He careth for us day and night,
   All things are governed by His might.

3. We all confess the Holy Ghost,
   Who sweet grace and comfort giveth
With the Father and the Son
   In eternal glory liveth:
Who the Church, His own creation,
   Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation
   Daily come through Jesus’ merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be
   In bliss with God eternally. Amen.
**Theme of the Week: The One True God, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Ghost**

Our sinful flesh is hell-bent on death. Our desires are corrupt, our mind is depraved, our will is bound for destruction. Humanity marches toward death. This is why repentance is “turning.” The Holy Spirit turns us. He turns us away from idols, away from our love of sin, away from our love of self. He turns us toward what is good and true. He turns our hearts and minds toward Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. We Christians are the “turned,” turned from death to life, turned from destruction to salvation, turned from slavery to freedom, turned from darkness to the light of Christ, turned by the forgiveness of all of our sins. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for the gift of our new heart and spirit which You have given us in repentance. Amen.

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**Scripture: John 3:1-16: The Strange Gift of One More Snake**

Even after the Lord rescued Israel from Pharaoh’s slavery, they complained in the wilderness. So the Lord sent serpents into the camp, and the Israelites learned repentance, and came to Moses for help. The Lord gave Moses the strangest instructions: make a bronze serpent and lift it up on a pole. Everyone who sees it will be healed. You can imagine what the people were thinking: “We don’t need another snake around here!” But all the people who believed the Word of God and looked to the serpent lifted up were healed. This serpent was preaching Christ. “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” O Holy Spirit, fix our eyes on Jesus. Amen.

**Scripture: Psalm 8: The Excellent Name of the Lord**

God’s name is who He is and what He does. Consider the burning bush. The Lord tells Moses His name: “I am who I am. The Lord is eternal, and this is good news for His enslaved people. His name is not only who He is but also what He does. He will cause His people to be a people once more. He will make them a nation and establish them. Or consider the name Jesus. It means, “The Lord saves.” (See Matthew 1:21.) Jesus is the Lord, but His name is more than who He is, it is also what He does. Jesus saves us from our sins. O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. Amen.

**Scripture: Romans 11:33-36: Of, Through, and To**

“For OF Him and THROUGH Him and TO Him are all things.” Of, through, and to: there is theology in those prepositions. The holy and blessed Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the source of all things. Creation, the universe, everything seen and unseen, was spoken into existence by God. All things are of God, and all things are through God. The cosmos continues to be held together by His might, and ruled according to His unsearchable wisdom. All things are to God, when the great rebellion is over, and Jesus delivers the kingdom to His Father (1 Corinthians 15:24), and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are glorified forever. Holy and Blessed Trinity, I give You thanks that You have created and redeemed me, and will keep me to eternal life. Amen.

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**Scripture: Ezekiel 18:30-32: Turn and Live**

Our sinful flesh is hell-bent on death. Our desires are corrupt, our mind is depraved, our will is bound for destruction. Humanity marches toward death. This is why repentance is “turning.” The Holy Spirit turns us. He turns us away from idols, away from our love of sin, away from our love of self. He turns us toward what is good and true. He turns our hearts and minds toward Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. We Christians are the “turned”, turned from death to life, turned from destruction to salvation, turned from slavery to freedom, turned from darkness to the light of Christ, turned by the forgiveness of all of our sins. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for the gift of our new heart and spirit which You have given us in repentance. Amen.

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**Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20: What are you going to do with all that authority?**

“All authority,” Jesus says to the disciples, “has been given to Me.” That is a lot of authority! “…in heaven and on earth.” You can imagine the disciples were excited. What are we going to do with all that authority? Set up a new kingdom? Overthrow the Romans? Bring an end to sickness and poverty? What would we do with all this authority? We should be surprised and delighted with what Jesus does with all authority: He gives the gift of His Word and baptism to the world. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” O Lord, we thank You that You use Your authority to give us the gifts of the Gospel. Amen.

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**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:14, The Apostolic Benediction**

“Benediction” comes from the Latin bene + decare, to say a good thing. Our verse today is called the “Apostolic Benediction” from the Apostle Paul who ends this letter to the Corinthians with this Trinitarian blessing. Above all else, St. Paul presses into the ears and hearts of the Christians that God is gracious, God is loving, and God is with them. Jesus Christ so loved the world that He died and rose again to bring salvation, and we have this salvation not by works but by faith. God the Father so loved the world that He sent His Son to rescue us. And God the Holy Spirit so loves the world that He will not forsake His church, but continues to abide with us and in us. O Holy Trinity, abide with us in Your love and grace. Amen.

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**Scripture: Psalm 115: Alive like God or Dead like Idols**

“The human mind is a perpetual forge of idols” (John Calvin). We are always chasing after false gods, Baals, power, Molech, our own goodness, Mammon, money, or whatever. We fear, love, and trust the wrong things, dead things. And as we worship the idols we become like them. This profound truth is expressed beautifully in this Psalm: we become like what we worship. The idols “have mouths, but do not speak; eyes they have, but do not see... those who make them are like them: so is everyone who trusts in them” (Psalm 115:5, 8). But we worship the living God, and we are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another (2 Corinthians 3:18). O Lord, give us eternal life in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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