

Trinity 2022
June 12, 2022

Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Happy Holy Trinity Sunday!

Today is the last of the festival Sundays all the way until October 31 with Reformation Day.

Next week we start the long green season of Ordinary time, which doesn't mean plain, but numbered – as in ordinal – 1, 2, 3... Sundays after Pentecost. So, this is the last you will see white for a while and on this last white day for a quite a bit we remember the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which I know, makes everyone groan. Doctrine. Blah. Who cares???

But, this is a very important doctrine that helps us to better understand God.

So, the very first thing you need to know is that without Jesus, there would be no Trinity. It is only because Jesus calls the Creator Father that we get the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and God being known as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The old language is three persons, but one essence, which I've never cared for at all, because people get stuck on that three persons and I just don't think it's helpful. One essence, yes, but three persons?

As you may or may not know, Luther's father was a miner. We worked with ore and crystals, so Luther was well acquainted with rocks and such. And this is how Luther described the Trinity [pull out crystal].

This morning we're going to do an object lesson.

Luther described the Trinity as being a gem that has an inclusion in it. Your wedding ring may have had its inclusion mapped so that you know it's your diamond. Now. Depending on how you look at the diamond, the one inclusion may appear to be more than one.

So, I'm going to pass around this crystal. You'll notice that it has a big black inclusion in it. When you look at it on its side, you can clearly see that it is one inclusion, but if you look at it from the top, it appears to be more than one.

God is clearly only one, but God can appear to us in three different ways – God the Father, the Creator of all that exists; God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior; and God the Holy Spirit, the sanctifier who lives in, with, and among us.

All three are God and any time you speak of one, you speak of all three. So any time we talk about God the Creator, we are also talking about the Son and the Spirit. Any time we talk about the Son, we are also talking about the Creator and the Holy Spirit. And, any time we talk about the Holy Spirit, we are talking about the Creator and the Son. Three in one.

And as we ponder God, the triune, we come to realize that God is relationship. In and of God's essence, God is relationship – Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

We also come to realize that God wants to be in a relationship with us. God created us to be in relationship with us. Christ died and rose from the dead to mend our broken relationship. And, the Holy Spirit does the work of constantly keeping us in relationship. God loves us and wants us to know the one who created us.

And as much as God wants to be known and to know us, it is still all a mystery. It's one of those things that if we try to grab on too tightly, we lose it entirely, and so we just walk humbly with God, remembering that we are only looking through a mirror dimly, and that the one on the other side of the mirror is calling us out to play, or dance.

The icon I chose for this morning ties in nicely with the idea that God wants us to go out into the world and join God's relationship creating loving energy everywhere we go. The dance of the Trinity, like the sparkle in the gem, draws us out to God and unites us with God in love – love for God, love for others, and love for all of creation.

As we contemplate the Trinity here today, we can see the Trinity lived out in the Church. We gather together as God's beloved creatures around the cross of Christ pulled here by the Holy Spirit who then sends us out to live relationally in the World with all of creation sharing the good news of God's love as known through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

God knows that we can only be in relationship with creation, so the creator of all becomes the creation in Jesus Christ, and then the Holy Spirit comes into us so that as Jesus is in heaven, we can still be in relationship with God through one another.

Today is Trinity Sunday. Today we celebrate the God given gift of relationship that calls us both out to play and into the dance.

Thanks be to God. Amen.