**Matthew 28:16-20 June 7, 2020 (Holy Trinity Sunday)**

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

Our text for this morning comes from the Gospel of Matthew the 28th chapter here re-reading these words. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This is our text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; these are the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity that make up one divine essence. Not three Gods, but one God. Yet all three are distinctly, God. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God, yet, as was already stated, not three Gods, but one. That is what the Scriptures reveal to us about the Holy Trinity and it is what we believe here in the Lutheran Church. And this doctrine of the Holy Trinity is not secondary or unimportant. It is foundational. The Holy Trinity’s name is what is called upon when we begin our Divine Service each and every week. The Holy Trinity is what we confess to believe in the words of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds that we confess, each and every single week. We sing together, Holy, Holy, Holy, a Trinitarian message in the Sanctus before we receive the Son’s very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins in Holy Communion. The Trinity is emphasized every Sunday, not just here on Holy Trinity Sunday. And while the Holy Trinity is important it is also a doctrine that we can never hope to completely understand. It is something that our sinful and human intellect cannot possibly completely comprehend. But that doesn’t take away from its importance. Because the Holy Trinity is evidence of our undeserved salvation from the beginning of the world, to the beginning of the Church, and to the very end of time.

By looking at the work of the Holy Trinity we see God’s love for us. We see truly where love, comes from, for it was the Holy Trinity that caused everything around us to exist. The entire Holy Trinity was there in the beginning. The Father spoke, the Son was the Word, and the Holy Spirit was dwelling over the waters. Our Old Testament lesson this morning shows the intricate and detailed work of the Trinity in creating everything that we see around us today, and even creating us. We are His creation. We are made in His image. We are a sign, of His care in that we did not just happen to be one day, we did not form from some other alien and foreign material outside of God’s creation, but we were formed from the dust of the ground with His hands. And God breathed into us, the breath of life. We are special to God. And the work of the Trinity shows that He created a paradise for us.

God creates, but sadly we destroy. We destroyed that perfect image. We destroyed that paradise by falling into sin. And so, we upset the work of The Holy Trinity by falling from grace into the dirt and grime of sin. As the Father’s children we have fallen from grace. And now instead of seeing everything as coming from Our Heavenly Father’s providing hand we destroy our humility by putting ourselves before God. We destroy our obedience by rebelling against our Heavenly Father. God creates, and we destroy.

But our Heavenly Father still provides, and He provided the perfect sacrifice in the form of His perfect and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ; the Son of God, is not less than God, but He was begotten from Him. And the true nature of Christ as both God and Man is something that we can only understand by faith. But the reason why He came, shows the love of the Holy Trinity, the love of Our God, who gave to us a perfect substitute, so that we would not die eternally. The Father provides His Son into death, so that His fallen creation would live. The Holy Trinity provides for us again, and this time it provides what is needed the most. For Jesus Christ comes to this world to die, as the Son of God, for the very creation who destroyed the perfection they were created in. Jesus Christ, comes here, and dies for you, and gives to you, the gift of eternal life. That is the work of the Holy Trinity, to provide salvation to all of God’s children.

Yet we take advantage of that gift. While God provides, we throw it away. We, take it for granted. We see salvation as a nice trophy that can be put on the shelf and one less thing we need to worry about. We go back to our lives of sin and turn our backs on the gift that was won with such a heavy price. We take for granted Jesus Christ’s pain and suffering by giving in to our own sinful desires and yearning for a better life of happiness here on Earth, rather than focusing on the life to come. The Holy Trinity provides, but we want more. And we want it our way. The truth is we do not deserve this gift of salvation. We do not deserve to be saved.

The Holy Trinity creates all that we have, and provides for us salvation, yet we are sinners. We are unclean and not worthy of God’s provision and God’s work of salvation. Left in our despair and in the guilt of sin there is no hope for us, but that’s why God provides a promise. A promise that we are not alone. At the end of Matthew 28, before Jesus, the Son of God ascends to heaven, He tells the disciples to go out and baptize in the name of the Holy Trinity. To baptize the disciples that are to be made in the name of the Father; the one who has created and sustained all things. In the name of the Son, the one who has redeemed them from sin and the grave. And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who will remain with them, and sustain them with the faith in their hearts that has now been created through the water and the Word. That is the promise. “Surely I am with you always even to the end of the age.” Surely, we have not been abandoned to this world of darkness and sin, a world that we created in our own selfishness, that seems to get worse each and every day. For God has not left us alone in our despair, but He has shown us. Love. For God is love. Our God is the embodiment of love, because each person of the Trinity shows us, love. So we know without a shadow of a doubt, that when we come to God in repentance and sorrow for our sin and our lives of destruction, He will not abandon us or forsake us. He will not throw us out again into the darkness of sin. But He will show to us, love. He will forgive us. Renew us. And restore us to our rightful place, as His children, and heirs of His eternal kingdom.

The Father shows us a love that Fathers of this world have a small understanding of in the time they spend with their own children, in the moments when they provide for the needs of their children through their hard work. Our Father, who is in heaven, loves us with a love that was so great, that it is shown to us in the gift of His Son. That is a love that goes beyond our sinful understanding and our own comprehension, that a loving Father would sacrifice His own son, for his enemies. But that is God’s love for us. And the comfort that we have, when we look at the Holy Trinity, is that because of the work of God’s own Son, because of the work of the Father who sent Him, the Spirit who was with Him, and the Son himself who came, and who died on the cross to take away our sins. We are forgiven. We are saved. We are redeemed through His blood, and His pain, and suffering.

And because of His death, we are reborn. We therefore have died with him, in baptism. In the very thing that God has sent these disciples out to do. In the very thing that the Holy Trinity’s name is upon. We are reborn in the waters of Holy Baptism to a new life, as children of God, and bearing upon our forehead and upon our hearts the Trinitarian name. The Name of the one, and only God. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are made new. We are washed clean. Our former lives of destruction are a thing of the past. We are no longer a vessel of destruction and a monument to sin, but we are the temple of God; the Holy Spirit. For in our hearts resides the third person of the Trinity; the Holy Spirit, who has created the faith that we now have that receives from God all of His glorious gifts. That faith, receives the gifts that God so richly and freely provides for our benefit, not His own. God does the creating. God does the providing. And God gives us again the sure promise, that we are His children, baptized into His name.

Holy Trinity Sunday is a reminder for all of us, that our ways are not God’s ways, and our understanding can never and will never be able to grasp what Scripture reveals to us about our God, the three in one. But instead of ignoring the Trinity, we focus on the work of God. The work that shows us the providing care of God the Father. The work that shows us our Savior, Jesus Christ, both God and man. And the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, who makes disciples of all nations, who creates faith in the hearts of believers, and who remains with us, just as Christ has promised, until the end of the age. The Trinity continues to work, and May we never forget their love, and their providing care. For this is a day of celebration. May God bless you, with His peace, and His grace, through the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding keep our hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus.

Amen.