

Sermon, June 12, 2022, The Holy Trinity Sunday—Trinity Lutheran Church—Pastor Peter Saie

Text: : Proverbs 8:1-14,22-31; PSALM 8; Acts 2:14a,22-36; John 8:48-59

Grace, Mercy, and Peace through the unity of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Theme: “Being united with the Holy Trinity through Christ Jesus.”

Introduction: To truly understand the Holy Trinity, one must first be called to faith by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, because without this wisdom of calling, it is impossible to accept the essence of the Trinity; the three in one God. Three distinct Persons, yet one God. For our human minds would not understand how three can become one at the same time. In our pre-school days we were taught that one plus one plus one equals three. But on the other hand, the Bible teaches us that one plus one plus one equals one. And yesterday, as I preached this lesson at Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Rome, NY, I used the common example of my three in one printer, which prints, copies, and faxes documents, but yet it is one printer and cannot be separated by its functions. In the same way, God is only one, but he functions in three distinct Personalities; the Son, who became man to die for the sin of the world, and the Holy Spirit, who calls sinners by the Gospel and creates saving faith in Christ Jesus into their hearts. For God is so merciful and loving that he planned to reunite His beloved fallen-creature, man, who was made in His own perfect image, by the works of the Holy Trinity. In our past Gospel lessons, Jesus has been speaking to His disciple of their unity with the Holy Trinity according to the Gospel of John 14, saying, **“If anyone loves me, he will obey my**

teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him....All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you..." And this is the sole purpose of the Holy Trinity, that mankind once again become united to the family of God forever.

In our today's Gospel lesson, the Jews said to Jesus, "**Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?**" Jesus answered, "**I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me....Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.**" For Jesus did tell the Jews the very mission of the Holy Trinity, that he has come into the world to bring eternal life to all mankind through His bitter suffering and death on the cross. But the Jews could not understand what he was saying, instead, they got more angrier, saying, "**Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?....Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abram was, I am."**

Oh yes! Jesus has been before the creation of the world, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, according to Gen. 1:1-3, "In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters. And God said, "**Let there be light,**" and there was light." We see in these three beginning verses of the Bible, the works of the Holy Trinity, and the distinct functions of the Three-Person in One-God.

We see that in the beginning of the world God (the Father) created; then we see the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit); and we see the Word of God, “Let there be light, Jesus Christ the begotten Son of God in the beginning.

The Evangelist John, filled with the Holy Spirit revealed the fact that Jesus was in the beginning with God, in his gospel, writes, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made that has been made...”** The Word, “Let there be,” was Christ in the beginning, by whom all things were made. That Word became flesh and lived among mankind for the salvation plan of the Holy Trinity.

Therefore, King Solomon knowing the wisdom of God, writes in Proverbs 8,

Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

² On the heights along the way,
where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

³ beside the gate leading into the city,
at the entrance, she cries aloud:

⁴ “To you, O men, I call out;
I raise my voice to all mankind.

²² “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works,
before his deeds of old;

²³ I was appointed from eternity,
from the beginning, before the world began...”

In other words, Solomon, is saying that God who is all knowing, has included or appointed us through His salvation plan, in the works of the Holy Trinity, that we may receive saving faith by grace through Christ Jesus. And this becomes our Christian confession of the faith in the words of the Creeds, of the Holy Trinity.

And this is the entire theme of the Eternal Holy Trinity—that mankind become reunited with the family of God through Christ Jesus, who give His body and Blood on the cross as the sacrificial Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

May the peace of God which passes all human understanding guide your hearts and minds through the faith in the Holy Trinity, Amen.