

Sunday, May 31, 2026

THE HOLY TRINITY

Acts 2:14a, 16-20

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

My friends,

On this Sunday,

we celebrate the revealed mystery
of the Holy Trinity.

We celebrate the Trinity
because this is the true God.

We celebrate the Trinity
because this is the God
who loves us
and shows us mercy.

On the day of Pentecost, St. Peter preached:

*"This Jesus God raised up,
and of that we all are witnesses.
Being therefore exalted
at the right hand of **God**,
and having received
from **the Father**
the promise of the **Holy Spirit**,
[Jesus] has poured out this
that you yourselves
are seeing and hearing."*

In these words,

we see the whole Trinity
at work for your salvation.

God the Father.

God the Son.

God the Holy Spirit.

The Father gives the Son as Saviour.
 The Father raises the Son
 from the grave
 and seats Him at His right hand.
 The Son pours out the Holy Spirit.
 And the Spirit works
 what the people are seeing and hearing,
 so that they may *"know for certain
 that God has made [Jesus] both Lord and Christ."*

And still today,
 the Father sends the Spirit
 through His Son.
 This is the heart of our message:
 the Triune God acts for your salvation.
 This is good news.

I. GOD THE FATHER LOVES YOU BY GIVING YOU HIS SON AND EXALTING HIM AS LORD AND CHRIST FOR YOU

My friends,
 God the Father loves you.
 In love, He created the world.
 In love, He created you.
 He created you
 to be more than His **creature**.
 He created you
 to be His **child**.

*"So God created man in His own image,
 in the image of God
 He created him;
 male and female,
 He created them.
 And God blessed them." (Genesis 1:27–28a)*

God the Father loves you.
 He lovingly created you
 to be His own dear child.
 In His own likeness.
 Living in His blessing.

But there was a problem.
 Our sin.
 Our unbelief.

We doubt the Father's care.
 We do not trust His love.
 So sinners try to take His place.
 People try to care for themselves.
 They try to be their own father.

Instead of loving & obedient children,
 humanity became hostile to God.
 Enemies of the Father.
 Full of hatred.

Do you doubt this?
 Look at history.
 The Father sent Jesus.
 Jesus revealed the Father perfectly.
 And what did the world do?
 We crucified
 and killed Him.

But!

There is a great "**HOWEVER**"
 in Peter's sermon.
 Jesus' death was not a meaningless tragedy.
"This Jesus"
was "delivered up
according to the definite plan
and foreknowledge of God." (Acts 2:23)

This was the Father's plan.
His plan to end our hostility.
His plan to bring sinners
back into His family.

The Father gave Jesus
to pay for sin.
*"For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God
is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

Jesus went
to the cross
because it was the Father's will.
It was the Father's will to save.
The Father desired
to bring *"many sons to glory."*

*"For God
so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes
in Him
should not perish
but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

And so the Father glorified Jesus.
*"This Jesus God raised up,
and of that we all are witnesses."*
The crucified One now reigns
at God the Father's right hand.
And from the Father,
through the Son,
the Holy Spirit is poured out.

By sending Jesus,
 the Father opened the way
 for sinners
 to become His children again.
 And now,
 by faith we receive
"the Spirit of adoption as sons,
by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"(Romans 8:15)

II. GOD THE SON LOVES YOU BY DYING FOR YOU AND LIVING TO REIGN FOR YOU

My friends,
 God the Son loves you.
 The crucified One
 who is *"both Lord and Christ"*
 loves you.

On the day of Pentecost,
 St. Peter applies Psalms 16 and 110 directly to Jesus.
"I have set the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand,
I shall not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad,
and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life;
You will make me full
of gladness
with your presence." (Psalm 16:8–11)

"The Lord says to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool." (Psalm 110:1)

The "LORD" addressed in Hebrew is YHWH.
Jehovah.
The Great I AM.
The Hashem.
The name of God.

Jesus,
the man who died
on the cross
for your sins,
is Lord.
He is God.
He rules
at the Father's right hand.
The hand of action
and saving might.
His enemies are crushed
and defeated
under His feet.
And He is your big brother.
And He adores you.

Jesus lives for you.
He rules and reigns for you.
He defeated death.
And,
ascended to God's right hand
—He is with you always.

No matter what you face in life,
God the Son is on your side.
You will not be shaken.
Because you are united to Christ
—and nothing shakes Him.
He is with you,
therefore let your heart be glad.
Let your whole being rejoice.
Live in the confidence of knowing
The Lord God Almighty reigns.

Because He is raised,
 your flesh also dwells securely.
 For you must be raised with Him.
 Your destiny is resurrection.
 Eternal life with Jesus.

Jesus has made known
 to you
 the paths of life.
 He will make you full of gladness
 in His presence.
 Just as He enjoys the presence
 of His Father.

Romans chapter five says:

*"Since we have now been justified by [Christ's] blood,
 how much more shall we be saved
 from God's wrath
 through Him!
 For if,
 when we were God's enemies,
 we were reconciled
 to Him
 through the death of His Son,
 how much more,
 having been reconciled,
 shall we be saved
 through His life!"* (Romans 5:9–10)

Jesus is present now.
 Jesus is in control.
 And He loves you.
 He holds you in His hand.
 He continues to be with you and for you.
*"Exalted to the right hand of God,
 [Jesus] has received
 from the Father
 the promised Holy Spirit
 and has poured" Him
 into our hearts.* (Acts 2:33)

III. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT LOVES YOU BY BRINGING YOU TO JESUS.

My friends,
 God the Holy Spirit loves you.
 He has come
 so that you will
*"know for certain
 that God has made [Jesus the crucified]
 both Lord and Christ."*

Without the Holy Spirit,
 we could not believe in Jesus.
 Scripture says,
*"no one can say, '
 Jesus is Lord,'
 except by the Holy Spirit."* (1 Corinthians 12:3)

We cannot believe
 by our own reason or strength.
 We cannot come
 to Christ on our own.
 But the Holy Spirit calls
 us by the Gospel.
 He enlightens us with His gifts.
 He sanctifies
 and keeps us
 in the true faith.

Our Lord Jesus promised:
*"When the Spirit of truth comes,
 He will guide you into all the truth...
 He will glorify me,
 for He will take what is mine
 and declare it
 to you."* (John 16:13–14)

The Holy Spirit makes Jesus known.

The Holy Spirit teaches us Christ's truth.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus among us.

In love,

the Spirit unites us

to Christ and His Church.

"For we were all baptized

by one Spirit into one body ...

and we were all given

the one Spirit to drink." (1 Corinthians 12:13)

The Spirit brings us into God's family.

"For you ... have received

the Spirit of adoption as sons,

by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Romans 8:15)

The Holy Spirit is the one working in Holy Baptism.

Scripture says

that God saved us

"by the washing of regeneration

and renewal

of the Holy Spirit,

whom He poured out on us richly

through Jesus Christ our Saviour...

so that being justified

by His grace

we might become heirs

according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:5–6)

"And hope does not disappoint us,

because God has poured out His love

into our hearts

by the Holy Spirit..." (Romans 5:5)

The Holy Spirit loves you.

He enables you

to worship God in Spirit and truth.

He equips you for service.

He uses you to build up the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's Church.

He sends us to make disciples of all nations.

He sends us to baptize and teach

in the name of the Father

and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19–20a)

And through His Church,

the Holy Spirit declares

"that God has made

[Jesus the crucified]

both Lord and Christ."

*

My friends,

The Triune God loves you.

He is the God who shows you mercy.

God the Father is your Creator.

By His Son,

through the Holy Spirit,

He welcomes you

into His family.

He holds you

in His arms

as a father tenderly holds

his little child.

He graciously provides

all the needs of your body and soul.

He has given you Jesus.

God the Son is your Saviour and Redeemer.

He won you back
to God
with His precious blood,
poured out
in His death
on the cross.
For you,
He broke the power
of sin and death.
And now,
exalted to God's right hand,
He rules over all things.
He is with you always.

The Holy Spirit is your Sanctifier.

He creates and sustains
your faith
in Christ.
He leads you
to Christ
in Word and Sacrament,
uniting you
to your exalted Redeemer.
And on the last day,
He will raise you
from the dead.
And you will be full
of gladness
from the presence
of your God.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let us give glory to the Trinity.
Because God loves and saves you,
let us respond with hearts of gratitude.

I invite you this week to pray,
to worship the Triune God,
and to show His love
through acts of kindness
to others.

Trust in His mercy,
rejoice in His presence,
and let your life reflect
the grace you have received.
For the Triune God loves you
and has shown you His mercy.

*"O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!"*

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all." Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*