

## He Is Our God

John 8:48-59

Trinity Lutheran – Kearney, Missouri

May 26, 2013 – The Holy Trinity



In the name of the Father, and † of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Dear Christian friends, today is a very special Church holiday. It's the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Trinity Sunday, or simply, The Holy Trinity. On this day we Christians focus our attention on one of the most inexplicable, amazing doctrines in all of Holy Scripture – namely, that we have only *one God*, and yet at the very same time there are Three Divine Persons whom we may rightly call God. The Father is one Person, the Son is another Person, and the Holy Spirit is yet another Person. But, as the Athanasian Creed reminds us, the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one. The glory is equal, the majesty coeternal. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; yet there are not three Gods, but one God! Not many things in Holy Writ stand so far beyond the reach of fallen human reason as what God says concerning Himself as Triune.

Now to be sure, God has caused many things to be written that are so clear and simple even a small child can understand them. For example, God clearly says that Christ died for us, that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, and that whoever believes and is Baptized shall be saved. God speaks in such a clear, simple way because there is no other way for you to know Him! God doesn't require you to use the power of your intellect in order to be saved. And God not only speaks clearly and simply, but He also gives you ears to hear and faith to believe so that your salvation is not dependent upon your ability to understand.

Stated another way, you have God's gift of eternal life not because of any power in you, but because of the power of God's Word simply spoken to you concerning Jesus and His death on the cross for sinners. But today is Trinity Sunday. This is one of those days when we are not quite

so focused on the simplicity of God's speech – as important as that is – but about the immense depth, the immeasurable expanse, and the unfathomable mystery of who our God is! Today is about God revealing Himself to us in His Word in such a manner that no heart of man has ever before imagined. Today is that day when we stand in wonder and awe at our God, whose thoughts and ways are higher than ours, and whose thoughts and ways are beyond finding out by any means other than God's own self-revelation in Holy Scripture.

Today is a day to rejoice – to rejoice in the fact that we have and hold a faith which is so much greater than we are – a day for us to confess, according to the Scriptures, even those things which we cannot begin to understand. The Father is one Person, the Son is another Person, and the Holy Spirit is another Person. But the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but one God. And God is so merciful and kindly disposed toward you that He uses these mysteries for your blessing and benefit!

It is God's compassion which moves Him to say clear, simple things to you, like: "Your sins are forgiven," and, "You shall not taste death." And this same compassion moves God to say things to you such that no one could ever fathom or understand, like: "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God." And why is it such a great gift that God would say things to you which go far beyond anything you could ever imagine or comprehend? The first reason this is so is so that you will never be fooled into thinking you are the master of your own destiny. Undoubtedly you must have noticed how certain

happen in your life that you would never have chosen for yourself. Yet because God's thoughts are far above your thoughts and His ways far beyond your ways, you are able to believe that God in His Wisdom has allowed these things to happen for your blessing and good – yes, even the “bad” things. And who knows what you might experience in the future? Because God sees farther and judges more wisely than is possible for you and for me, you are to trust that the ups and downs of life are never outside God's watchful, careful eye. Our three-in-one God will remain totally devoted to you, even when it seems as if He's nowhere to be found!

A second reason God speaks to you things far beyond your ability to understand them is so you realize that no one ever becomes a master of Holy Scripture. Or, stated another way, all Christians are equal before God, from the youngest to the oldest, from the newest convert to those who have been Christians since infancy. In the presence of this vast, incomprehensible God, we all stand together, equally empty-handed – none of us able to give Him anything – including the powers of our intellect. No one can know God more deeply than the Scriptures reveal Him. Hence because He is so far beyond and above us He cannot be mastered. Therefore we all stand together on an equal plane – I no greater than you and you no greater than me.

The third reason God speaks to you in ways far beyond your ability to understand them is so that your attention might be focused only upon Jesus. It is the unknown-ness of God that drives you to that One human-divine Person in Whom alone God makes Himself known, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One! You heard it just a short time ago in today's Gospel: “He is our God,” says Jesus, “but you have not known Him.” Then, for your comfort and joy, our Lord Christ adds these most important Words: “I have known Him.” And Jesus also says in another place, “No one knows the Father except the Son,” and in another place, “No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus alone is the true radiance of the glory of God – the exact imprint of the Father's nature – who upholds the universe by the

Word of His power – who, after making purification for our sin, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Stated most simply then, the inexplicable teaching in God's Word concerning the Holy Trinity is what keeps your eyes focused upon Jesus, because you know that Jesus – the God-Man and Second Person of the Trinity come down in human flesh to save sinners – is the only One who really understands any of this! So when you want to see what God looks like, you look only to Jesus – suffering, dying, crucified, and hanging on the cross for our salvation. You listen to Jesus' Words when you want to hear God speaking His forgiveness, life and salvation through His Word and the preaching of it in His Church. When you want to be with God, you gather where Jesus says He will be: on the Altar and in the Font.

So Holy Trinity Sunday is a good day for you to be glad and give most hearty thanks and praise to our God, that the Father is one Person, the Son is another Person, and the Holy Spirit is another Person – but that the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but one God. This one God, dear Christian, is the God who has saved you. This is the God of your past, your present, and your future. He is greater than you and greater than me – even more so, greater than anything that might ever happen to you, more powerful than any enemy that might ever rise up against you. Even in the midst of things you cannot understand, the inexplicable teaching of the Holy Trinity allows you not to think too much about it, but rather, shrug your shoulders and say with confidence and joy: “If I live, I live to the Lord, and if I die, I die to the Lord. So then, whether I live or whether I die, I belong to the Lord.” Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

And now that peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in that one true faith in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.