

Holy Trinity Sunday
Sermon text: John 3:1-17
Related text: Romans 8:12-17
Isaiah 6:1-8
Date preached: June 7, 2009

Grace to you and peace from God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

When the church, meaning the whole wider church, gathers together for a baptism, those who are being baptized are done so in the name of the Triune God. I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

This name is the name of one God. This one God is known in three persons. Furthermore, each of the three persons of the Trinity are described and referenced in the scripture by a variety of names and adjectives.

For example in the creeds we speak of God as creator. In our reading from Romans, there is the cry to God, Abba! Yes, Abba is translated Father, but can also be read as Daddy.

There are a wide range of adjectives that give us a glimpse of the nature of God. Holy, Holy, Holy, are adjectives that leap off the page from the recording of Isaiah's vision.

In the Gospel reading Jesus implies God as King as he speaks to Nicodemus about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus himself is referred to by many names. In the Apostles Creed we say that Jesus is the Son of God. As he speaks about himself in the Gospel reading, he is the Son of Man. In the Christmas season we hear of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords, Wonderful Counselor to name a few. We know of Jesus as the one who has redeemed humanity from sin, death and the devil and so we speak of Jesus as Messiah, Savior, Redeemer and Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that speaks on our behalf. As taught by Luther in the Small Catechism it is the Spirit that calls, gathers, enlightens and makes us Holy. The languages of Hebrew and Greek bring forth the names of wind and breathe as being the same as the Spirit.

All these adjectives of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit speak to the fullness of God's relationship with us. God's desire for this relationship is one that is intimate with us in such a way that he knows all there is to know.

Such a relationship may be scary. We are human. There are things about ourselves that we may not

like. There are things that we hide about ourselves in fear that if someone knew these things about us, they might think differently, treat us differently or worse, not want to have anything to do with us.

That is not God. God's desire is for us to be so intimately linked in relation to him that there is nothing that would stand in the way. As it states in the end of Romans 8, there is nothing in all creation that will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Such is the depth and breadth of God's love for us that there is nothing to stand in the way. That is the comforting nature of our relationship with God. His love not only descends upon us, but binds us more closely to one another.

That is where the rubber hits the road for us. Throughout our lives there are comings and goings. Today, we offer a blessing for those who are graduating and in many cases that will mean that we will not see you as frequently as we have. Certainly your parents will not see you as often, nor you them.

As we travel in life, in our comings and goings from home, in our comings and goings through the

different stages of our lives, the love of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit goes with us.

The love of God will bring us into new relationships with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The love of God will also keep us bound together in the one family of God even if there comes a point where we don't see each other anymore in this life.

It is this relationship of which the whole scripture speaks. God created us in his image. God has valued us so much that he has sent his son to die for us so that we may be forever linked in the communion of saints, the church phrase for family of God. The Holy Spirit, who has been sealed upon us in baptism, continues to reveal the beauty of this relationship with have with God and how we can continually live out this beautiful relationship with one another.

That makes worship, prayer, singing, baptismal remembrance and the weekly celebration of Holy Communion so important for in these ways we continually experience the abounding grace of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.