

Holy Trinity Sunday – May 31, 2026

Matthew 28:16-20

I'm still incredibly close with my college friends. We've been friends since 2005. Despite living literally across the country from each other at some points, we've spent almost every new year together in some shape or form. That included travelling to Denver one year. Or, like this year, it involved us zooming because we were sick. But we even go on vacations together. We're heading to Michigan together in a few weeks. And have a cruise planned for next year. We've seen each other through loss, grief, celebrations, weddings, break ups, moves, graduations, new jobs.

It's these types of relationships that will help you through life. We all need some type of relationship with another human being. We weren't created to be solitary humans as we heard in our genesis reading this morning. Human connection. Community. We are created for relationship with one another.

So, as we started our new women's fellowship group, I was thinking about relationships this week and how we have Trinity Sunday every year, which is every pastors favorite Sunday to preach... I took some time to reflect on the relationship of the Trinity within itself and how we relate to the Trinity as well. You will hear me say this every year, but there's really no easy way to describe the relationship of the trinity, without diving into heresy.

Our creeds do it well, which is why we use these words that have been around for centuries every week in worship. The easiest way that I describe the Holy Trinity is that we worship one God. But that we relate to in 3 personas. And each persona is fully God that cannot be separated.

So that is clear as mud, correct?

So, this might be some sort of heresy as well, but I think we relate to the Trinity in three different ways as well. My favorite way to describe the Trinity is creator, redeemer, sustainer. I may have used this before, but it feels to me as the easiest way to relate to God. Our creator, recognizing that all that we have, and all that we are have been made by God. Everything

around us is a divine creation. And then we have our redeemer, Jesus, who was the physical incarnation of God. Lived life serving and loving people as an example for us. And who died on the cross, defeated death, and hell, and rose again for our redemption. Jesus is how we understand God's love for us. That God loves us so greatly that Jesus came to us and walked the earth with us. And then the Holy Spirit - Our sustainer. The spirit is how we continually relate to God, recognizing the spirit within us, helping us to endure, and continue living throughout everything that we might face. The spirit continues to move in each of us as a reminder of God's presence with us. Today and always.

That is the promise that we hear at the end of our gospel today. We hear a command to go out and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity. But we also hear a promise to us. That God is with us always to the end of the age. That we are always surrounded by God. God continues to work in and through us

And we go out, living in serving with that promise. We are given a Trinity is a way to relate to God. To understand God, in just the smallest sense. And our relationship with God is what compels us to go out, and to make those relationships with others. Relationship is what sets us apart from some of these other "larger" churches out there. Within this Rejoice community, you have a built-in support system. People who pray for you, lift you up, and walk with you through your life journey. In those larger churches, it's easy to get lost, but here we all know each other. The good and the bad. And we can look at each other, recognize our faults, and still love each other.

The relationships and the love that is shared in this community is more special than a lot of us realize. If someone were to ask me why I go to church, or why I feel called to this church, it's relationships. We don't need church to worship God. And yet we come most Sundays. We come to be in community with each other. Fellow believers seeking to be in relationship with God, and finding relationships with each other. Knowing that God lives in each person here.

But we also have an opportunity to remember that as we go out. To remember that God lives in every person that we encounter. And our relationship with them reflects our relationships with God. Remember, God doesn't desire for us to be alone. We were created to be in community. To be in a relationship with people. It wasn't promised to be easy, but it was promised that we would never do it alone. Because the God who created us for relationship did not just send us out into the world alone. The Creator who made us, the Redeemer who showed us love, and the Spirit who sustains us goes with us. In every conversation, in every friendship, in every moment where loving another person feels hard or complicated, God is there.

So go out this week remembering you were created for this. Created for relationships and community. Created to reflect the love of the Trinity into a world that desperately needs it. And wherever you go, the Holy Trinity, Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit go with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.