

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

PONDER THE MYSTERY

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate that God is triune—three in one. God is a unity comprised of three persons. God is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is most certainly true.

We can't fully understand this. Even though I want to grasp this truth, it seems to hang just out of reach. Some people try to explain the concept of the Trinity using examples like an egg consisting of three parts: the shell, white, and yolk; or water being chemically the same, whether it takes the form of liquid, steam, or solid ice. These explanations fall short for me. The Trinity is not science to be discovered or a problem to be solved. It's more of a mystery.

Mysteries aren't completely understood by the mind alone. This is the kind of knowing that can come through pondering or contemplation. God as Trinity is a truth informed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. The Athanasian Creed, which Luther considered the greatest doctrinal statement since the time of the early church, clearly states the doctrine of the Trinity: "There is one God, but three persons in that one God. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods, but one God." The repetition and rhythm in the text of the Athanasian Creed are meditative and, most often, read aloud as a group. Proclaiming these words together in community can lead to a deep knowing in the hearts of the congregation.

Each person of the Trinity is involved in accomplishing our salvation: God the Father sent Jesus the Son to live a holy life and die on our behalf. In salvation, we become partakers of His divine nature (II Peter 1:4). God the Holy Spirit shows us our sin, points us to Jesus, and enables us to call on the Father (Romans 8:15).

This Trinity Sunday, let us ponder these mysteries and take joy in the truth that God loves us and gave Himself for us: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7).

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