

Sermon June 15, 2025 Trinity Sunday

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

Sermon: The Three-in-One God We Worship

Today, we gather to celebrate Trinity Sunday, a special day when we lift up the mystery and wonder of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This isn't just a fancy idea we talk about in church. It's the heart of who God is, and it shapes everything we believe. Let's dive into this truth with joy, using stories from the Bible, examples from history, and a clear look at why the Trinity matters so much.

I. The Trinity: The Only True God

Imagine you're building a puzzle, but someone hands you pieces from the wrong box. No matter how hard you try, the picture won't come together right. That's what happens when people try to worship a god who isn't the Trinity. The Bible tells us God is one, but He is also three—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This isn't three gods, but one God in three persons, each fully God, working together perfectly.

In the Old Testament, God says, "I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:5). At creation, we hear, "Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26). Who's "us"? It's the Father, Son, and Spirit, all there from the beginning. When Jesus was baptized, the Father's voice boomed from heaven, "This is my beloved Son," while the Spirit descended like a dove (Matthew 3:16-17). All three, one God, shining in glory.

Some say, "Oh, everyone worships the same God, just with different names." But that's like saying all puzzles are the same, even if the pieces don't fit. Other religions might talk about a creator or a spirit, but if they don't know the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they're missing the true God. Only Christians, through faith in Jesus, worship the one, true, triune God.

II. The Creeds: Guarding the Truth

Long ago, the church faced big fights about who God is. It was like a family arguing over a treasure map—everyone wanted to be right, but some were way off. To keep the truth safe, the church wrote creeds, like the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These are like fences around a playground, keeping us safe while we explore God's truth.

In the early church, some people said Jesus was just a super-good man, not God. Others said the Spirit was just a force, not a person. These ideas were like cracks in a dam, threatening to flood the church with lies. So, around 100 AD, the Apostles' Creed was born, simple and clear: "I believe in God the Father Almighty... and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord... and in the Holy Spirit."

But the cracks kept growing. By 325 AD, a man named Arius caused a huge fight. He said Jesus was created, not eternal like the Father. This was like saying the Son was just a helper, not fully God. The church met in Nicaea and wrote the Nicene Creed, declaring that Jesus is "true God from true God, begotten, not made." Later, when Arianism wouldn't go away, the Athanasian Creed came along, saying loud and clear: the Father, Son, and Spirit are one God, equal in glory, distinct but never divided.

These creeds are like lighthouses, guiding us back to the truth when we start to drift. They remind us that the Trinity isn't something we made up—it's who God has shown Himself to be.

III. Why We Need Trinity Sunday

Even today, people drift away from the Trinity. It's like trying to fit a huge ocean into a tiny bucket—our minds can't hold the mystery of God, so we try to make Him simpler. In some churches, people talk about God as just "the Creator" and ignore the Son and Spirit. Others, like Jehovah's Witnesses, say Jesus is a created being, not God. These ideas are like building a house on sand—it might look okay for a while, but it won't stand.

I remember hearing about a church in our town that stopped teaching the Trinity because it was "too hard to understand." Soon, their sermons were all about being nice, not about Jesus saving us. Without the Trinity, they lost the heart of the Gospel. Groups like Mormons or Unitarians also change God into something they can grasp, but it's not the God of the Bible.

That's why we have Trinity Sunday and say the creeds every week. They're like anchors, holding us to the truth. When we confess, "We believe in one God, the Father Almighty... and in one Lord Jesus Christ... and in the Holy Spirit," we're saying, "This is the God we trust, no matter how big the mystery is." The creeds keep us from wandering into error, like a shepherd guiding sheep back to safety.

IV. The Trinity Keeps Us Balanced

Think of the Trinity like a three-legged stool. If one leg is missing, the whole thing tips over. Each person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—shows us something special about God, and together, they keep our faith steady.

The Father is the Creator, who made the world with love and power. He's also just, like a fair judge. When Adam and Eve sinned, the Father's justice meant sin had to be punished. But His love sent the Son to take that punishment for us.

The Son, Jesus, is our Redeemer. He came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again to save us. He's also the truth-revealer. When Philip asked, "Show us the Father," Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Jesus shows us what God is like—loving, forgiving, and strong.

The Holy Spirit is the one who makes us new. He's like a gardener, planting faith in our hearts and helping it grow. He gives us gifts of grace, like love, patience, and courage, to live for God. When the disciples were scared after Jesus rose, the Spirit came at Pentecost, filling them with boldness (Acts 2).

If we only focus on the Father, we might see God as far away, just a judge. If we only talk about Jesus, we might forget the Spirit's work in us. If we only think about the Spirit, we might miss the Father's creation or the Son's sacrifice. The Trinity keeps it all in balance, like a perfect song with three harmonious notes.

Conclusion: Living in the Trinity's Light

The Trinity isn't just a puzzle to solve. It's the God who loves us, saves us, and lives in us. Long ago, Martin Luther and his fellow reformers fought to keep the church focused on the true God. He taught that we're saved by faith in Jesus, the Son. That faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit. All this was because the Father so loved the world. That's the Trinity at work!

So today we celebrate Trinity Sunday with joy. We say the creeds with gusto, trusting the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When you hear someone say, "All gods are the same," kindly share the truth: only the triune God is real. When you're tempted to make God small enough to understand, remember the creeds and the Bible's stories, pointing you back to the mystery.

And now our God redeem you from death and hell with his love, keep you in his truth, and -fill you with his grace that we, as God's people, worship the one, true, triune God now and forever. Amen.

The peace of God guard your hearts and minds as you believe and trust in Him.

Pastor Ron Breight Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills, Pennsylvania

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