

The Sunday of the long creed. We believe, confess what's incomprehensible. Ponder this day 3 great mysteries; 3 great doctrinal truths that makes true Christians different than the rest of the world.

First, mystery of the Holy Trinity. We are catholic. This catholic faith. There is no other, no god, no true Jesus, no forgiveness, no salvation apart from what we confess every Sunday; just confessed in the Athanasian Creed, as we confess with Christians throughout the world on this day. St. Athanasius dies before that creed written; it's an honorific title, Athanasius, key defender of the catholic faith against a few erring bishops at the Council of Nicaea, 2001 years ago. We are catholic. Martin Luther excommunicated, kicked out of the Church under penalty of death for being a good catholic. But we are not Roman, nor embrace new teachings Rome has introduced over the centuries. Catholic, means universal, we hold to what has always been taught, before there were popes and a Roman Church we see today. God reveals Himself throughout Scripture, one singular God, who says let *us* make man. One God, three persons, omniscient (all-knowing) omnipresent (everywhere) omnipotent (all-powerful), our responses to what's incomprehensible? Amen. Truth. It is so. Explain as well how God creates everything you see and there is, out of nothing? Explain the Sacraments? Amen. Truth. It is so. Scripture reveals so much of God, Sacraments we can confess truth but there is a depth beyond human thoughts.

And second, mystery of the incarnation. God, eternal Son, takes on flesh, God dies on a cross, we worship a man, Jesus. No salvation, no forgiveness outside of Him who is eternal 100% God, 100% incarnate, born man, in one person. Amen. Truth. It is so.

The devil hates these great mysteries and uses the world and so he rages, rages especially against the third great mystery. (I'll get to that) St. Peter says, **Do not be surprised by fiery trials as though something strange were happening.** We catholic, historical Christians simply don't play along with man-made religion ideas. We aren't the same. We don't worship the same God, same Jesus. So don't be surprised by the world. And don't be fooled by it either.

We confess these great mysteries amidst so many lies and rage of neighbors and the devil. We know what truth is; will not compromise God's holy word; we live not by lies. We know who the devil is, we will fight against him, but we do not fight alone. We know what true, eternal love is, and we even love our deluded enemies and want them to join us in confessing Christ.

And consider a third great mystery, why? Your atonement. For you. The Son sent by the Father into the world, brings the Holy Spirit to humanity. **Whoever is born from above of water and the Spirit receives eternal life**, reconciled to Him by His cross. The Son has taken up your cause, joined Himself to your flesh, not only to redeem you from sin, but make you holy, that opens heaven to

you. The Holy Spirit comes to testify of Him, to create faith, help us pray, dwell in us as His new Temples.

The Trinity did not need someone to love. Nonetheless, He created you in perfect love, to be recipients of His love. Your proper place in this universe is as God's own beloved children. That is always what you were meant to be, what you were created for. But look at us. Yes, we all hurt, all wounded from the devils raging, but look at we do, how we live.

Isaiah: **Woe is me! For I am lost; I am a man of unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.** Like Isaiah, we should all be damned, as we all confessed. If everyone of your sins were known and revealed, everyone of us, would hang our heads and run out of here in shame. And when you fail, when we choose our sinful, evil ways, then He reaches out with more love, forgiveness, healing. Amen. Truth. It is so.

We confessed in the creed those who've done good to eternal life, those who've done evil. Who is good? 2 Cor. 5. **We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one can receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad.** Jesus in John 5, **those who have done good will go into the resurrection of life; those who have done evil will go into the resurrection of judgment.** Also Matt. 25, the sheep and goats, good to eternal life, those evil, damned. Of course so many other Scriptures, **no one is good, not even one.** It's all grace, given faith to do good works, only those of faith can please the Father but still not enough, the only good is a man, Jesus, gives His righteousness, His works, His holiness, His perfect good to you, so you are good, a dear saint, holy. Amen. Truth. It is so.

You have today, greater than Isaiah in the temple, you come here and confess, **Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, deserve death,** and we mingle our praises with the angels **holy, holy holy, Lord God of Sabaoth,** (host, armies) as the Church always does before the Sacrament, to you, **for my eyes have seen the King,** the glory of the Lord coming to you.

See how your God works, a messenger from God, because of a Sacrifice has taken place, from the Lord's altar, will bring and this touch comes with the promise **Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, your sin atoned for.** The very body and blood of Jesus **given shed for you for the forgiveness of all of your sins.** You are holy, forgiven, by the spilling of Jesus' blood all over your guilt, good to stand before God, rejoice in His presence. Amen. Truth. It is so

Dear saints, mystery of the Trinity, Incarnation, defines your day and one day soon, because what the Father, Son, Holy Spirit work for you in holy baptism, continually working faith and life and daily care in you, working the Eucharist in you, your **eyes will see the King in His full glory.** You will see Him face to face, a blessed reunion awaits with your family there for eternity. Rejoice in these mysteries. Amen. Truth. It is so.