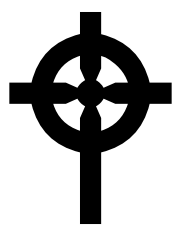


Trinity Sunday



St. Patrick's Anglican Church

4794 Curtis Blvd Port St. John FL 32829

**Trinity Sunday
May 30, 2021**

**✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The passage selected for the Sermon this morning is taken from the Gospel:

“If I have told you of earthly things and you believe not, how shall you believe if I tell you of heavenly things.” St. John 3:12

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday. Tomorrow, we celebrate Memorial Day, remembering our troops who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and we also remember the sacrifice that was made by their families. It is fitting these two days are juxtaposed, and as I close the sermon, I will talk about how the sacrifices made by our soldiers is dear to the Church, and to our God. In today's Gospel, Our Lord tells Nicodemus, that Man must be born again by water and the Spirit. Of course, we recognize that birth as Baptism. St. Matthew, at the end of his Gospel, records Jesus providing the form of Baptism. “Go ye, therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” (St. Matthew 28:19) The Name by which we are reborn is the Name of God, the Holy Trinity, and today, Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the Revelation of God's Name to His Chosen people of the New Covenant.

In fact, we celebrate more than just a Sunday dedicated to the Name of God, we celebrate the beginning of a season. Trinity season is the longest season of the year, taking a full half of the calendar. And yet, though we spend half of our lives in Trinity season, we spend very little time contemplating the Trinity. Like Nicodemus, we are earthbound in our search for God, and these visions of heaven, the ecstatic Revelation of God's Name,

is so difficult to approach with the human mind, that we often don't dare to contemplate this incredible and mystical gift.

In the Covenant of the Old Testament, God chose to Himself a particular people, and He demonstrated His adoption of these people by revealing His Name to them. They know Him, the One and True God, as He revealed himself to Moses in the burning bush. “I am that I am.” It is a holy and unspeakable name, forbidden to those who are corrupted by sin and under the dominion of Satan. But even though the Name of God was forbidden to the unredeemed tongue, God continuously revealed His Name in the form of the three part promise of the Covenant.

Throughout the Old Testament, God holds out a promise to His people that they will know Him more truly. 144 times He says to them, “I am the Lord God, I am the God of your Fathers, and I will be your God, and you will be my people.”

Jesus Christ, the Son of God made Man comes to fulfill that promise by redeeming us, and making us new persons and a new people. He reveals to His Chosen people, that the Name of God is “the Father, and the Son and Holy Spirit”. He shows us how the Covenant promise is fulfilled by that name.

“I am the Lord, the God of your Fathers” is revealed to be the Father. He is the First Person of the Trinity, the source of Creation, and Light and Love. It is the Father that adopted Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all their seed, as imperfect as they were, and provided the means to become perfect. He has adopted us as well, and through His Son given us the means to be made perfect as well.

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“I will be your God” is the revelation of the Son, the second person of the Trinity, by whom all things were made, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was made man. How is it that we could not belong to the one who created us? The answer is that in making us in His image, God gave us the freedom to choose to serve Him, or to serve ourselves. In the sin of Adam, and in our own daily sin, we exercise the will to choose Death and Satan over Life and God.

We are unable, by our own effort to throw off the chains we have placed upon ourselves, because we have chosen not to be the children and people of God. But God loves us and pities us.

The Son becomes man, so that Man can become perfect, and glorify God by obeying His will. It is through Jesus Christ that Man is restored to God. Through His death and Resurrection, our death is transformed from an unavoidable destination, into the door through which we enter everlasting life in Him.

“And you will be my people” is the Holy Ghost. By our Baptism in the Name of the Trinity, we are restored as children of God. Children that retain the image of God, including a free will that allows us to serve God and do His will, or to serve ourselves and return to Satan and to Death. We children, left on our own, would likely make the same tragic and irreversible decision that has been made before. But in His love, The Son sends us the Holy Spirit to witness to the Truth of our Salvation in Jesus, to embody and personify the love of the Son, and the Love that the Father has for us, because we love His Son. By the Holy Spirit, we are sanctified, strengthened and directed so that we can persevere up to, and through, the fearsome gate of death, to realize the promise of life that has been reserved for us in Christ.

All of Creation, All of History, All of Scripture, is revealed to us in the Name of God, by knowing who He is, and by knowing the Persons in Him. We understand in the Father the source and purpose of our Creation. In the Son we realize the un-imaginable depth of our Father’s love, “that He would give His only Son to the end that all that

believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”. In the Holy Ghost we learn the means by which we are preserved in our lives and times so that we can be delivered to the heavenly destination to which we have been made heirs in Christ.

It is the particular and unique grace of Christians to know the Name of God, to know the Persons of the Trinity. It is a gift that bears appreciation, meditation and prayerful thanksgiving. It is a gift that can’t be unwrapped, appreciated and absorbed in just a moment. And so, our Mother, the Church, in her inspired Wisdom, gives us a whole season, the better part of the year to ponder the mystery.

With this understanding of the Trinity, we can see how dear the sacrifice of those who have died in the service of freedom and battling oppression, is to the Church and to our God. As the Father sent his only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins and our redemption from the attack of the Devil, so too do the families who raised these sons and daughters we memorialize today, also sent their sons to deliver us from evil and preserve our freedom. The men and women who gave their lives make the closest sacrifice to the one offered by the Son that can be made. As Jesus said, There is no greater love than this, that a man gives his life for his friends. As the Holy Ghost informs the sacrifice and its importance of it to our Redemption, so to the Holy Spirit reflects the courage and love of our heroes back to us to be our inspiration and our example of the best life that we all could live.

Let us offer our prayers of Thanksgiving for the sacrifices of our heroes, and in remembrance of the mystery of God’s love as revealed in His Holy Name.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.