



## *Guided by the Spirit*

### *Trinity Sunday*

*John 16:12–15*

*All that belongs to the Father is mine.  
That is why I said the Spirit will receive  
from me what he will make known to you.*

**May 22, 2016**

## **Thoughts for the**

## **Week**

Scriptures: Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Psalm 8,  
II Corinthians 13:11-13, John 1:1, John 10:30, John 14:26, 1 John 5:7-11

### **"What is Trinity Sunday?"**

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Although the word "trinity" does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 (and many other biblical passages). The concept of the trinity can never be completely understood or rationalized, but it is clearly taught in Scripture. Understanding of all scriptural doctrine is by faith that comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred.

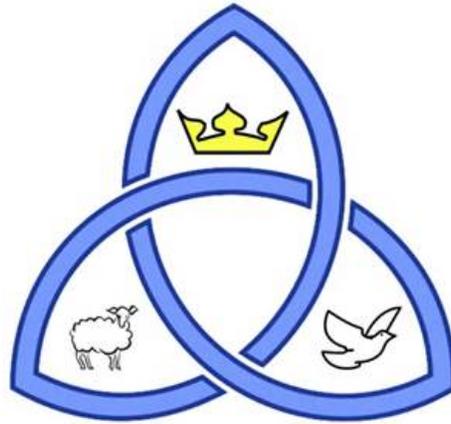
On Trinity Sunday, the Christian Church ponders with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of sinful humanity. It is brought to remembrance how Christians should respond to the love God has shown us, praising Him and giving Him glory. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. Scriptural readings for the Trinity Sunday ceremony may include Psalm 8, beginning and ending with, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." II Corinthians 13:11-13 appeals to believers to aim for perfection and live in peace, ending with the prayer that the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all, including again the commission Jesus left for believers in Matthew 28:16-20.

Today, Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of man's ability, the clues written in Scripture to guide us to a fuller understanding of our triune God. The Father is God from the beginning (John 1:1); Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." Together, they sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one" (1 John 5:7-11).

### **Background**

Pope Gregory IX instituted Trinity Sunday in 828 CE. This day is notable for being the only major Christian festival that

*celebrates a doctrine of the church rather than an event* in its sacred history. It is dedicated to the Christian belief in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and falls on the Sunday following Pentecost each year. The belief of one God in three elements is a distinctive of the Christian faith but the early church was plagued by contrary views. Trinity Sunday spread throughout the western church around the 14th century.



## Symbols

In some churches, the liturgical color is white on [Trinity Sunday](#). Images of the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit depict that there are three elements of one God. The Trinity is sometimes symbolized by a triangular shape formed by three overlapping oval rings or loops, each featuring the one of the following images: the crown ([father](#)) within the top loop; the lamb ([son](#)) within the second loop; and the dove ([spirit](#)) within the third loop.

*Happy Birthday - Mary (5/26)*

## Prayer Thought – Zambia

Creating and loving God, we come before you in praise and thanksgiving.  
Guide us into the joy of being, and the desire for all persons to experience true joy in knowing your peace.  
We pray for the concerns of those gathered here today, and those who join us in prayer.  
Forgive our choices that separate us from you and from one another,  
and guide us to a deeper understanding of your will for each one as an instrument of your peace.  
We uphold for your blessing of peace the nation and people of [Zambia](#).  
Guide the leaders of all nations in seeking just and equitable distribution of the earth's resources.  
Strengthen all who engage in the mission to abolish poverty and end suffering.  
Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Engage our minds in planning for what is good for all creation.  
Give us the courage and compassion to extend our whole selves in humble service for the well being of the entire world you love.  
Hear our collective prayers, O God of Peace, that your peace may become the peace of this world. Amen.

## Stewardship Thought

*“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth” - John 16:13*

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us know and live the truth.  
To prepare ourselves, we need to open our hearts to receive this gift  
before we can give it. Develop a daily prayer routine

to ask the Holy Spirit to help guide our thoughts and actions.

## One in Christ Moment

“Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion.  
Live, love, and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ, among whom there are no poor or oppressed.  
As Christ’s body, lovingly and patiently bear the weight of criticism from those who hesitate to respond  
to the divine vision of human worth and equality in Christ.  
This burden and blessing is yours for divine purposes.”

—Stephen M. Veazey, words of counsel  
presented to the 2013 World Conference

*What is God’s invitation to me in this passage?*  
*What is God’s invitation to Community of Christ in this passage?*