

## "Water and the Spirit" Isaiah 6:1-7 Holy Trinity Sunday 2024

Grace, peace and mercy be unto you from God our Father, from our Lord and Saviour, and from the Holy Spirit the comforter. Amen.

Today, we seek to understand the timeless truth of the Trinity.

The Trinity is a cornerstone of our faith, a fundamental truth that shapes our understanding of God and His relationship with us. It's a divine mystery, a paradox that challenges our human understanding, yet it's a truth that we embrace with faith and reverence. The Trinity reveals to us the nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - three distinct persons yet one in essence, one in divine nature, one in eternal glory.

The Scriptures we read today from Isaiah, Romans, and John offer us a glimpse into this profound mystery. They reveal to us the different roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and how they interact with us and with each other in the divine plan of salvation.

In the book of Isaiah, we see a vision of the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne. The seraphim are calling to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." This vision of the Lord Almighty, the Father, reveals His majesty, His holiness, His glory. He is the Creator, the Sustainer, the Ruler of all. He is the one who calls us into being, who sustains us in our existence, who rules over us with justice and mercy.

In the book of Romans, we hear about the Spirit of God. He who leads us, who brings about our adoption as sons and daughters of God, who testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. The Spirit is the one who empowers us to live according to the will of God, who transforms us into the image of Christ, who assures us of our divine filiation. He is the one who guides us in our journey of faith and who sanctifies us in our struggle against sin.

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In the book of John, we encounter Jesus, the Son of God, who comes from heaven to reveal the truth about God and His kingdom. Jesus is the one who performs signs and wonders, who teaches with authority, who offers eternal life to those who believe in Him. He is the one who incarnates the love of God, who fulfills the law and the prophets, who lays down His life for our salvation.

The Trinity, then, is a living reality that shapes our relationship with God. It reveals to us the depth of God's love, the richness of His grace, the beauty of His holiness. It invites us to enter a personal relationship with the Father, to follow the example of the Son, to be guided by the Spirit. It challenges us to live our faith with conviction, to love our neighbor with compassion, to seek the truth with humility.

The Trinity also shapes our understanding of the Church, the Body of Christ. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one in essence, so too are we, as members of the Church, one in Christ. We are called to live in unity, in love, in peace, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live in perfect unity, perfect love, perfect peace. We are called to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel, to the love of God, to the hope of salvation, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bear witness to each other in the divine mystery of the Trinity.

The Trinity, finally, shapes our understanding of our mission as Christians. Just as the Father sends the Son, and the Son sends the Spirit, so too are we sent into the world to proclaim the Good News of salvation. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ, to be instruments of His grace, to be lights in the darkness.

As we immerse ourselves in the transformative power of prayer, we find ourselves standing on sacred ground. Prayer is not just a religious ritual or a spiritual discipline. It is a divine

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conversation, a holy communion, a sacred dialogue between the Creator and His creation.

Consider the words of Jesus in John 3:1-17. Nicodemus, a religious leader, comes to Jesus under the cover of night, seeking answers. He recognizes that Jesus is a teacher who has come from God, but he struggles to understand the spiritual truths that Jesus presents. Jesus tells him, "No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." He speaks of a spiritual birth, a transformation that comes not from human effort, but from the Spirit of God.

In this encounter, we see the transformative power of prayer in action. Nicodemus comes to Jesus with questions, doubts, and misunderstandings. But in the presence of Jesus, amid their conversation, Nicodemus is confronted with a truth that challenges his preconceived notions and invites him to a new understanding of God and His kingdom. This is the power of prayer. It is not just about asking God for things. It is about coming into His presence, seeking His truth, and allowing His Spirit to transform us.

Now, let's consider the words of Paul in Romans 8:12-17. Paul speaks of an obligation not to the flesh, but to the Spirit. He speaks of a life led by the Spirit of God, a life marked by sonship and adoption into God's family.

In these words, we see another aspect of the transformative power of prayer. Prayer is not just a monologue. It is a dialogue, a two-way communication between us and God. When we pray, we are not just speaking to God. We are opening ourselves to the voice of His Spirit, allowing His Spirit to speak to our spirit, affirming our identity as His children, and guiding us in the path of His will.

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As we venture further into the heart of our faith, we find ourselves standing on the threshold of a profound truth: the transcendent relationship we can have with God through His Spirit. This is not a distant, abstract idea, but a tangible, life-changing reality that can transform our daily lives.

Living by the Spirit is about allowing the Spirit of God to guide our thoughts, our actions, our decisions, and our relationships. It's about surrendering our will to the will of God and allowing His Spirit to shape our character, our desires, and our destiny.

The first facet of living by the Spirit is the recognition of the Spirit's presence in our lives. The Holy Spirit is not a distant, impersonal force, but a personal presence that dwells within us. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" We are not alone in this world. We are not left to navigate the challenges and struggles of life on our own.

The second facet of living by the Spirit is the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." These, when you demonstrate them, set you aside from the rest of the world. People will wonder about you, about your life and thus about your faith, giving you opportunities to share your faith.

The third facet of living by the Spirit is the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of others. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul describes a variety of spiritual gifts that the Spirit gives to believers, including wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy,

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discernment, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These gifts are not given for our own benefit, but for the benefit of others. They are tools that the Spirit uses to build up the body of Christ and to advance the mission of God in the world.

Finally, is the assurance of our identity as children of God. In Romans 8:16, Paul writes, "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." This is not a mere intellectual belief, but a deep-seated assurance that we are loved, accepted, and cherished by God. It's an assurance that gives us confidence in the face of life's challenges, peace during life's storms, and hope in the face of life's uncertainties.

Living by the Spirit requires active engagement, intentional surrender, and continual dependence on the Spirit's power. It requires us to yield our will to the will of the Spirit, to submit our desires to the desires of the Spirit, and to align our lives with the purposes of the Spirit. So, let us commit ourselves to live by the Spirit. Let us invite the Spirit to guide our thoughts, our actions, our decisions, and our relationships. Let us allow the Spirit to cultivate His fruit in our lives, to exercise His gifts through us, and to assure us of our identity as children of God.

So, as we go forth from this place, let's carry these truths in our hearts. Let's strive to live by the Spirit, to embrace our identity as God's children, and to respond to His call with a willing heart. And let's remember, always, the incredible love that God has for us, a love that is greater than we can ever comprehend.