

Trinity Sunday Sermon

Texts: 2 Corinthians 13:11–14; Matthew 28:16–20

By Rev Samuel Yengi

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today on Trinity Sunday, we confess one of the great mysteries and treasures of the Christian faith: that our God is One God in Three Persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, the risen Jesus appears to His disciples for the last time and gives them what we call the Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”

Here Jesus clearly reveals the name of the Triune God. Not three gods, but one God in three Persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit united in perfect love and working together for our salvation.

Jesus begins with these words:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

This is a great comfort for us. Jesus, who sends His church into the world, is the One who conquered sin, death and the grave. Through His death and resurrection, He restores sinners to relationship with God.

And notice carefully what Jesus commands. He does not simply say, “Go baptise.” He says: “Go and make disciples.”

Baptism is not the end of the journey; it is the beginning of discipleship.

In baptism, the Holy Spirit brings us to faith and makes us children of God. But Jesus joins baptism together with teaching:

“teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”

A disciple is someone who continues to hear Christ's Word, trust His promises, and grow in faith throughout their life.

In many ways, baptism is like the beginning of a marriage. A wedding day is important, but marriage is a lifelong journey. Relating to my personal story as South Sudanese refugee in quest for asylum. My journey from the refugee camp to Australia has been a long one. Even when I was unaware, I believe God was calling me to serve. This call has brought real meaning to Christ's command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (v19).

In the same way, baptism begins a lifelong life with God, nurtured through His Word and sustained by His grace.

Sometimes we can focus on baptism or confirmation as isolated events, while neglecting the lifelong calling to grow in faith. But Jesus joins baptising and teaching together. The Christian life is one of continual learning, repentance, forgiveness and growth in Christ.

This calling belongs not only to pastors, but to the whole church. Parents, sponsors, teachers, Bible study leaders and congregations all share in helping one another remain connected to Christ and His Word.

Discipleship begins in the home as much as in the church building. When parents bring children for baptism, they promise to teach them the faith, to pray with them, and to bring them to hear God's Word. None of us do this perfectly, but together as the family of God we encourage and support one another in this calling.

And in a world filled with distractions, materialism and spiritual confusion, this task can seem overwhelming. Many churches struggle to keep younger generations connected to the faith. Yet Jesus does not tell His disciples to despair or retreat. He says:
"Go and make disciples."

As Christians we are called to bear witness to Christ to speak of the hope we have in Him.

And we do not do this in our own strength.

Jesus gives this wonderful promise:
"Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

That promise stands at the heart of discipleship.

The Triune God is with you.

The Father who created you and loves you.

The Son who redeemed you through His cross.

The Holy Spirit who called you to faith through the Gospel and sustains you through Word and Sacrament.

In our reading from 2 Corinthians, St Paul blesses the church with these words:

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

This is the Christian life.

We live by the grace of Jesus.
We are embraced by the Father's love.
We are sustained in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

And when our faith is weak, when doubts arise, when we fail in our discipleship, the Triune God does not abandon us. Instead, He continues to forgive, strengthen and sustain us through His Word and Sacraments.

Through baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, you belong to Him.

You are His child.
You are forgiven.
And Christ promises to remain with you always.

Amen.