

So, I hope today's Scripture reading sounds a little familiar. You know, we say it. To our new friends who are watching we say it every week at the end of our service. And I say it intentionally to remind us about the Holy Trinity, to remind us about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Many times we take for granted the idea of the Trinity. We know that it's a part of us. We know that the three are in one. But how often do we actually think about that?

I remember as a kid growing up and being told that the three were one. I remember thinking that the three were one, but I don't think I ever actually realized what that meant.

In our Bible study class, we talk about our faith journeys. I don't know if we realize all the time that we're talking about our faith journeys, but we talk about what it was like growing up in our denominations, in our religious services, and our faith. And some denominations focus more intently on the Holy Trinity than others do, and that's led to a number of discussions this week, because a lot of times we know the Creator, the Savior, and the Spirit are one. But we think domination, religion, and faith are one, and they're not. We think that these three are synonymous together, and we assume that these other three are. Why is there a difference?

Think back to your faith journey. Think back to when you were a kid. Did you ever take time to separate these three? We do a lot of things in the world because we're expected to. We do things because we believe that that's what our faith tells us. You can have faith and not necessarily follow religious practices and not necessarily have to belong to a denomination. You don't have to have all three. But we have to have all three for the Trinity because God speaks to us in different ways, through different points, through different possibilities.

When you look around the sanctuary, where do you actually see that the three are together? Today, you do because we have that banner, which symbolizes the three together. But the rest of the time? The best part about the cane is like, you use it for props. The rest of the time we've got God symbolized through the Greek letters, we have Christ symbolized, we have the crucifix everywhere, we have Bibles in all the pews, we have the flame to remind us of last week to remind of God's voice through Pentecost. So, why is today different?

We spend most of the year talking about God in one way or another. Almost every service immediately talks about God. We spend about half the year talking about Jesus, cuz we have Advent. We have Christmas. We have Lent. We have Easter. We have Easter Tide. All of those focus on the Messiah and what he did for us. We get one day to talk about the Holy Spirit, and we get one day to talk about all three.

I realized that when I started my ministry, that's why we do this scripture at the end of every service, because there's an important part of the scripture that Matthew tells us. There's an important part that gets kind of glossed over so many times when we're talking about God. Do you know what that one thing is? I love the silence. Matthew tells us that Jesus went to all the disciples. Now, remember, this is right after the resurrection. This is before he has ascended into heaven. Jesus is going, and he's talking to the 11 disciples, and he's telling them that all authority in Heaven, God, and on Earth, the Son has been given to him. To tell all of us to go and baptize the spirit. All three are just writing that first sentence. To baptize them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And that is the important part because it isn't just one. It isn't just God doing this. It isn't just Jesus saying to go and do this. It isn't just the Holy Spirit doing this. It is all three together. And is such a little little word, but it is so, so powerful, because Jesus isn't just telling the 11 disciples. He's telling us as well. Because we are a part of

that and God is in each and every one of us. We know that, We know that Jesus is in each and every one of us. We've accepted that. We know that the Holy Spirit has given us the opportunity to share love and to hear others in a way that they couldn't before.

Remember last week, everybody was fighting. They all believed in God, but they were all fighting because they all looked different. They all thought differently. They all sounded different, and the Holy Spirit gave them a gift to hear those languages together, to understand the love language that we all have ways we communicate to. Others can't hear us always because we don't have the words. But they came together. It isn't a one or the other. It's an and just like with us, It's not a one or the other. God has given us the power to be the and as well to be a part of the gift to share, to hear, and to understand. But not even God could do things alone.

God came to Earth to celebrate who we are to understand us better and to make a covenant the most could not understand. Prior to that, God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to come through each and every one of us to help us share and spread the faith, the idea, the understanding.

When you go through the Bible, there's only one point where it says all three together. And it's this scripture. When you go through the Bible, you hear many times God listed in different words. God's name being said differently. Jesus being called different things being called the Messiah, the Savior, the Son, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit being called different things, because that way all of us can hear it. Each one of those words has a different meaning, and when you see the actual words, you understand that sometimes God is being a Creator. Sometimes God is a parent. He's being a teacher. These are all different things because they're all part of the and, and we get to be a part of that and as well.

So today, we celebrate that one little word because it's so much more so when you go out this week. And I say, at the end of the day, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Think about what that means in your life. How can you show that and in ways that you have never thought about before because you're probably already doing it, but you just don't realize it? So, he asked you to think about this week. Think about the ands.

Let us pray.