**Sermon for**

**Sunday, June 7th, 2020**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

The Word of The Lord.          **Thanks be to God**

Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday.

This is not one of our most favorite Holidays.

Pastors tend to dread it.

They are well aware that three persons in one God

            is a difficult concept to understand and explain.

Members of the congregation often know that when the Pastor is done explaining

            this concept they will be more confused than they were before.

Yet we all know the importance of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And we know there is only one God.

There is little Scripture to help us understand the Trinity.

God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are of course all mentioned,

            in many places throughout the Bible.

The idea of how three persons work together and interact with us is a mystery.

Some time ago, Clyde and Muriel decided to travel

            through some of the small quaint towns in the mid-west.

They had a wonderful time chatting with the friendly residents,

            and exploring the quaint small shops throughout the area.

They enjoyed the variety of little stores selling art, and hand-made crafts.

Bookstores and homey eating places brightened their days.

The small-town parks and picnic areas relaxed them.

One morning Muriel decided to relax on a small beach and read a book.

Clyde was a bit more restless and chose to go to the town square and look around.

There was courthouse in the middle of the town square.

On top of that building was a fancy clock tower.

Clyde was fascinated by the ornate clock.

This clock had four faces, so no matter in which direction someone

was coming into town, everyone could see the hands and the face of the clock,

and know what time it was.

As Clyde examined the clock from all directions, he began to wonder:

            Were there four separate mechanisms, one to run each set of hands;

            or was there one clock somehow running all four of those hands.

He became absorbed as he pondered how

            those four clock faces and four sets of hands really worked.

A few hours later he realized it was time to return to the motel and join Muriel for lunch.

As he turned away from the clock,

he looked around at the quaint stores along the streets.

He realized he missed out on exploring the fascinating shops because he had become

so focused on trying to figure out how those faces and hands on the clock tower

really worked.

It was a mystery. It was a mystery he would probably never figure out or understand.

He decided he ought to have enjoyed exploring the little town,

            instead of concentrating on something he could not understand,

            and could not explain.

And so it is a mystery how God is three persons, and yet one God.

It is a mystery how the three in one interact.

We can spend a lot of time pondering and struggling to understand the mystery.

But our brains are perhaps a few sizes too small to hold this mystery.

We know the Father claims each of us as his child.

He loves us no matter what we have done or neglected to do.

When the time was right, He sent his Son to us,

            to die on the cross so our sins are completely forgiven.

Jesus told us, "My Father will give you another advocate to help you,

and be with you forever.

            This advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send,

            will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

These things we can know, and believe, and trust.

How, I do not know. Why, I am not sure.

But what I do know, and what I can understand, I will trust.

Jesus came to the disciples and said,

            "Go and make disciples of all nations,

            baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

            and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

God is what Martin Luther called a mystery.

A mystery we can never fully comprehend or understand.

But we can experience his presence, and peace, and love.

            And we can share his peace and love with others.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

AMEN