**Matthew 28:16-20**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**“God’s Mission Makes Disciples”**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mercy to us. Amen. Holy Trinity Sunday is unique among high feast celebrations. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost are concrete events in history, whereas today the Christian church worships the doctrine of God. It is all about who He is, what He has done, and how He works. Different ways have tried to describe God being one and yet three persons. Some have used examples in creation like the apple made up of a skin, pulp, and a core. Christian artists have painted images together of a hand for the Father, a lamb for the Son, and a dove for the Holy Spirit. Even being a human, the highest of God’s creation, we could say expresses the Trinity for a person has a body, mind, and spirit.

However, nothing can fully relate to the mystery of the Holy Trinity. This is why we confessed in the Athanasian Creed, “That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence.” To worship means to hold this doctrine of God in awe rather than try to put in under our feet. The best answer, like everything, comes from no one else better than Jesus our Lord. He gives the clearest description of the Trinity when He sent out His church to baptize all nations. Our question today comes down this, “How do we know God is all-in for us?” Look at God’s mission for it is rooted in His Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

* **When man goes all-in, it ends up to be lacking in every way.**

1. Denying or ignoring God does no good.

* King David made it clear even as a ruler, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalms 14:1).
* Creation declares God’s glory, but it is a glory still wrapped up in fallen world.

1. Hyper-spirituality causes chaos.

* St. John gives the warning, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)
* Luther says in His large catechism, “These articles in the Creed, therefore, divide and separate us from all other people on earth.” (406:66)

1. The Law devours our works.

* St. Paul explains, “But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.” (Galatians 3:22)
* Putting our whole self into something still gives cause to repent and believe the Gospel. Love your children forgets about your marriage. Dedication to work easily denies spending time with your family.
* **When God goes all-in, it is rich with love and all goodness.**

1. The authority of scripture speaks.

* Right from the start the OT shows the involvement of all three members of the Trinity in creating all things.
* Right from the fall there was God seeking to save and that missionary zeal is what Jesus made known, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

1. Behold the life of Christ.

* The Son obeyed the Father’s will to be born of the Virgin Mary worked by the Spirit.
* Jesus accepted His task to be the promised Savior for sinful humanity with the Father and Spirit rejoicing at His baptism by John.
* By the cross, Jesus being fully man was the perfect sacrifice before His Father for all judgment and the resurrection proves He is fully God which death could not silence.

1. Baptism now does save.

* We have the full investment of the Trinity for, “God saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:5-6).
* By Word and Sacraments, God is at work for the Holy Spirit, “calls gather, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.”
* **Since God is all in, we can make disciples in His name.**

1. Connections happen daily as we go about life.

* A mission trip can be great, but is small compared to God working through His baptized and our various vocations.
* To go to all nations like Jesus says is not about looking over here or there, but trusting what He tells His Church, “I am with you always…”

1. Building relationships comes when the baptized put God’s love to good use.

* This is mercy able to stop and see the laws damage upon another person’s life to offer help, heal, and hope in the Gospel.
* It even makes suffering useful where enemies and despisers of Christ notice the cross has become our greatest glory. (Bernie Sanders examining potential deputy White House budget director)

1. Making disciples at last rests on what God says to do.

* Baptism is what Jesus gave to His Church that grants us to be children of the Father, how we receive the benefits of Christ’s redeeming work, and what gives the life giving Spirit that sustains us.
* Where there is baptism, there is also the need Jesus says of “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Our question today comes down this, “How do we know God is all-in for us?” Look at God’s mission for it is rooted in His Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Name is what God has revealed to us for all good. This Name has all power able to work salvation for sinful humanity. This Name is glorious to worship as the great mystery where God is one and yet three persons. Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. God was all-in from the beginning. He is still all-in because no other salvation exists, but in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior! Amen. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.