

The Feast of the Holy Trinity
St. John 3:1-15
May 31st, 2021
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

That Which Is Born of Spirit Is Spirit

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O God, the Creator and Savior of the world, Who hast made Thyself known in the work of man's redemption, as the mystery of the ever adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Three in One and One in Three: reveal in us, we beseech Thee, the full power of this faith, into which we have been planted by Baptism, that, being born of water and of the Spirit, we may by a life of holiness be formed into Thine image here, and rise to Thy blissful presence hereafter, there to join, with the song of the seraphim, in praising Thee, world without end. Amen.

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

We celebrate today the Name that was given to us when we were washed in the waters of Holy Baptism. The Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost was placed upon us at our Holy Baptism. It is the same Name with which we are blessed at the beginning of the service in the Invocation. And we are blessed with and praise that Name throughout the Divine Service: at the Absolution, in the *Gloria Patri*, the *Kyrie*, the *Gloria in Excelsis*, and the termination of the Collects. We heard an expanded excursus of that Name when we confessed the Athanasian Creed. The Name that was placed upon us is mentioned in the General Prayer, the *Sanctus*, and the *Agnus Dei*. We are also blessed with that Name at the end of the Divine Service when the pastor blesses us with the Benediction. The Name that has been placed upon us by the washing and renewal of the Holy Ghost in the waters of Holy Baptism—the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost—means that the Triune Lord God has chosen us to be His people—His children.

We are His children—His people—because He has placed His own Name upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism. This is why Holy Baptism does save us. We have and bear the Name of the Triune Lord God through Holy Baptism. We own and possess, through faith, the Name of the Triune Lord God. This is why we confess that the washing of Holy Baptism is not just plain, simple water. Sure, the water has come from the faucet in the sink in the back room, but it is not just plain, simple water. For the Triune Lord God has added His Word to it. It is a washing of water and the Word. This is why this plain, simple water saves us, for our Triune Lord God places His Name upon us through that water.

Our Lord + Jesus tells Nicodemus at night that without the washing of water and the Word in Holy Baptism, we would remain flesh. That which is born of flesh is flesh. That is, that which is born of the corruption of Adam—the original sin of Adam—remains corrupt without a washing of water and the Word. Those who are not baptized remain in their sins. This is why the Command of our Lord + Jesus on the day of His ascension to the right hand of the heavenly Father was that the Church was to go and baptize all nations, baptizing them in His Name; the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. "All nations" includes ALL nations, even infants and those too young to decide for themselves. The parents or guardians bring the children to the Lord + Jesus to bless them with His

Name, just as He did not forbid the little children to come to Him to be blessed when He was living on this Earth. We can see this blessing of the little children in the art work on the wall.

All nations are born with the sin of Adam. All nations are born in sin. All nations are born in corruption, with corrupted flesh. Even babies are born with original sin, and also need to be baptized; they also need the washing of water and Word by the Holy Ghost, so that they also do not remain outside of salvation. All that is born of flesh is flesh. Everyone born of the seed of Adam is born in sin and corruption. They are born in sin, will die and are under the power and influence of the devil, the world and their sinful flesh. This is the fate of all those who scorn and refuse the saving waters of Holy Baptism.

But our Lord + Jesus also tells Nicodemus at night that all of those who are born of the spirit are spirit. That which is born of spirit is spirit. All those who are baptized with the washing of water and Word by the Holy Ghost; all those who have the Name of the Lord placed upon; all those who bear the Name of the Triune Lord God are cleansed and purified by the Triune Lord God of all their sins. For when our Triune Lord God places His holy Name upon us, we are made His children. He claims us as His own. He makes us holy and pure through the waters of Holy Baptism. We are cleansed from all of our sins when we cling in faith to our Holy Baptism.

For our Holy Baptism connects us to the cross of our Lord + Jesus Christ. The Son of Man must be lifted up just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert in order to save all those who were bitten with the deadly venom of the poisonous snakes. They were saved because they looked upon the lifted-up image in faith. They believed that they were healed when they looked upon the serpent that was lifted up. We are also saved when we believe upon and look to our washing of the Holy Ghost in the waters of Holy Baptism. When we believe that those waters cleansed us of our sins, the Old Adam—our inborn corrupt nature—is drowned and killed anew whenever we look to and believe upon our Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, we were washed with the Blood of our Lord + Jesus Christ.

The Blood that He shed upon the cross is the same Blood in which we were washed when we were washed with water and the Word. We are connected to His cross through the waters of Holy Baptism, so that just as He suffered and died for our punishment for sin, we also have been joined to His crucifixion and death through the waters of Holy Baptism. Our penalty of sin has been paid. Our Lord + Jesus suffered and died in excruciating pain. Our penalty is paid by being baptized into His crucifixion through being washed with water and the Word. So that the same rewards that He won by dying innocently on the tree of the holy cross—forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation—are also are rewards given to us because we no longer bear the corrupt flesh of Adam, but are gifted with the spirit of the Holy Ghost.

This is why we cling to our Holy Baptism daily. Whenever we are troubled by our sin and sin in this world; whenever we are troubled by death, we can cling in faith to our Holy Baptism, and no that our sins have been drowned and killed. A new man has emerged from the waters of our Holy Baptism that lives before the Triune Lord God bearing His Name in purity and life forever. This new man is free from sins. He walks clean and pure of sins. He is no longer flesh, but he is spirit. He is no longer filled with the corruption of the sin of Adam, but He is filled with the Holy Ghost who creates and sustains faith and life in him throughout his life.

This is the gift that our Triune Lord God bestows upon us. He has claimed us as His own dear people through Holy Baptism. He has removed the corruption of sin from our flesh, and made us new creations. He has fulfilled the Law perfectly on our behalf and suffered and died our punishment on the tree of the holy cross. He renews and creates in us a new spirit and faith every day when we remember that we are baptized into His Name; every day when we remember that we bear His Name. He has placed His holy Name upon us. The Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. This is

the Name which we celebrate today. We celebrate the Triune Lord God and the Name He placed upon us through the waters of Holy Baptism. For as we now bear His Name, we also bear all of His gifts. We have forgiveness of all of our sins. We have been promised an eternal life with Him, our Triune Lord God, and all the saints and angels who are in Heaven now. We are also promised to be saved and rescued from all of our enemies in this life; the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh can do us no harm, for we bear the Name of our Triune Lord God.

Let us therefore, my dear friends, rejoice this day that we have His Name placed upon us. We are called by His Name. We can remember our salvation and His Name whenever we make the sign of the holy cross upon our foreheads. For His Name saves us all through the death of the Only-Begotten and Beloved Son of the heavenly Father, Who with the Son, sends us the Holy Ghost to be our Helper and Comforter in this life and world filled with sin. When we make the sign of the holy cross, we are telling the devil, the world and our flesh—all of our enemies—that they can harm us none. For we have been chosen to be the special people of the Triune Lord God; we are His own dear children, who He loves very much. He loves us enough to save us from the corruption of our flesh, and makes us a new creation filled with His Spirit. This wonderful news is a cause to celebrate every day, but especially when we gather together in the Name placed upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism, as we spend time together remembering that we are the Triune Lord God's own special people who bear His Name. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty and Everlasting God Who hast taught us to know and to confess in true faith that in three persons of equal power and glory Thou art One True Everlasting God and to be worshiped as such: We beseech Thee, keep us at all times steadfast in this faith against whatsoever may assail us, O Thou, Who livest and reignest, ever, one true God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!