

IN-KY Synod Sermon and Prayers
Pastor Nancy Nyland, DEM
June 12, 2022
Trinity Sunday

John 16:12-15

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

(Jesus said,) "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

With this Gospel reading, we celebrate Trinity Sunday. God in Trinity, God in community, God in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In this reading, John writes about the three persons of the Trinity, but John isn't explaining the Trinity in theological terms, John is referring to the Trinity in relational terms.

Jesus is speaking and Jesus refers to his relationship with the Father, saying that all that the Father has is His.

And, Jesus refers to the Spirit, saying, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Again, Jesus is speaking of the Spirit relationally. The Spirit will not speak on her own, but will speak whatever she hears from Jesus, the son, and from God, the Father.

When I consider these verses, there is one word that struck me — He. He will guide you. He will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever He hears. He will declare to you. He will glorify me. He will take what is mine — "He."

It is understandable that some might be offended by the masculine language. But what struck me is that "He" was used and not "It".

The Holy Spirit.....referred to as "He" by Jesus is a person, the third person of the Trinity. I often refer to the Spirit as "She" as well as, "He."

We talk about having a relationship with God, the Father. We pray, Our Father who art in heaven. Jesus encourages us to call God, Abba - daddy.

We talk of having a relationship with Jesus. Jesus is my friend, my Savior, my companion, my teacher, my confidant, my healer (and you could add more).

How about having a relationship with the Spirit, this third person of the Trinity? Who is the Spirit to you?

The Spirit is a gift given to each of us in our baptism. God's Spirit dwelling in you, in me, in each one of us. What a humbling thought that is. That God would choose to dwell, to live, to abide, to nest, to make a home in us. This Spirit living in us. What a gift! The Spirit stirs within us, gifting and inspiring, encouraging and empowering, challenging and pushing at our edges so we will grow, comforting, reassuring, healing and bringing us peace. The Spirit abiding with you in every circumstance, every experience, every opportunity, every moment of your life. How could we ever be separated from God, when God's Spirit dwells in us?

The Spirit dwells in us, but this same Spirit is also oh, so active in the world today, constantly at work and inviting us, calling us, beckoning us to join her in this work.

In our reading today, Jesus is reassuring his disciples and perhaps himself, as well. Jesus is drawing near to the time when he will die, when he will be physically separated from the disciples.

Maybe through tears of his own, and possibly to weeping disciples, Jesus offers hope and reassurance to those whom he loves.

Jesus assures the disciples that they will not be alone. The Spirit will be with them. The Spirit of truth who will lead and guide them.

In this world that we live in....a broken world of loss and anxiety, fear and competition, conflict and abuse, disease and violence, Jesus is reassuring each one of us, as well. You are not alone.....the Spirit is with you, dwelling in you, as close as your breath.

You are not alone....

- When you face tough decisions and transitions in your life
- In times of grief and sorrow
- As your life is turned upside down by your own health issues or those of a loved one

- As the world bears down on you with its financial demands and with voices who try to convince you that you are not good enough
- As you raise children and grandchildren and shape their character
- As everyone and everything seems to demand your time and there is little left for you and for self-care
- In conflicts that threaten long-time relationships
- In whatever keeps you awake at night

You are not alone. The Spirit is with you, dwelling in you, abiding in you, residing in you. God is with you. God offers wisdom, comfort, healing, identity, strength, endurance, forgiveness, peace, love, grace, and hope.

God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is here right now. The Spirit stirring in you, inspiring you, comforting you, empowering you, working in and through you, blowing among us.

God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit knows you intimately, knows you better than you know yourself, knows your worries and your fears, your hopes and your dreams, your joys and your accomplishments.

This God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is in relationship with you claiming you, naming you, calling you, equipping you, encouraging you, guiding you and sending you out into the world. Go forth, my friends, enlivened by the Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need. A brief silence.

One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your church the hope of sharing in your glory. Enliven us by your Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator of all, you rejoice in creation and have given humankind responsibility for the works of your hands. Instill in everyone your Spirit of care for the earth, especially in areas threatened by ecological devastation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief (especially). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy Three, you are community and you create community. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our congregations and beyond. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death. Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice. Be with those who have lost loved ones or who have been injured in recent mass shootings throughout our nation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.