



*And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.*

With the Feast of the Holy Trinity, we transition to the second half of the Church Year, called “The Time of the Church.” As eloquently stated in our beloved devotional book *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, during the coming five and a half months, we will focus on growing together in the life of the Holy Trinity (p. 12).

Consider our Triune God of life: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each person with His distinct work, but yet one undivided God. Our Triune God is a God of love, meaning a deep sacrificial love, selflessly focused on the good of others. This is expressed in the mutual love and common purpose among the persons of the Godhead, flowing into the creation, redemption, and sanctification of man, both male and female. His desire is for all to receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation and in the end join in the great multitude in His loving presence into eternity. We are not ever to divide the Trinity; rather, “adoring, bend the knee, while we own the mystery.” (LSB 940.5)

Consider our life together in marriage and in the nuclear family. Marriage was instituted by God in the garden and is His joining of one man and one woman into a life-long one-flesh union, each person with his/her distinct work that complements the other. The deep and sacrificial mutual love between husband and wife reflects that between Christ and His Church. This flows, as He wills, into the procreation of children, whom father and mother bring to the waters of Baptism and nurture “in the fear and instruction of the Lord” (Holy Matrimony, LSB p. 275) as they serve as His agents in sustaining their lives and preparing them for eternity. Children, in turn, selflessly love and obey their parents, even after leaving them to hold fast to spouses to whom God has joined them. God’s desire for the nuclear family is thus to be a living icon of the Holy Trinity. No one is to separate the one-flesh union of husband and wife that God has joined together or to tear apart their family.

Consider our life together in the Church, the Body of Christ. In Baptism we are made members of Christ and brought into His Church, where we receive His gifts of forgiveness, temporal and eternal life, and salvation. We receive His deep and sacrificial love, which we in turn share among each other. Our shared love flows, as He wills, into the rebirth of unchurched neighbors who we invite to join us, into eternal life. God endows each of us with specific gifts which He directs and empowers us to selflessly use to build up each other and His Church. Even the weakest among us is indispensable! We are one in our hearing the Gospel preached, “in conformity with a pure understanding of it,” and receiving the Sacraments according to our Lord’s institution (Augsburg Confession, Article VII, paragraph 2). Like the nuclear family, God’s design for the Church is to be a living icon of the Holy Trinity. And we are warned not to cause division in Christ’s Body.

By proclaiming the Holy Trinity, this transition feast, like every day in the Church Year, proclaims the sanctity of human life from the time of conception into eternity and the importance of family in its nurturing. May the coming months be for us a time of growth in our Triune God, as we grow in love for Him, for our nuclear family, our church family, and our neighbors in the community. Oh, and happy Father’s Day as well!