



40A TRINITY SUNDAY YEAR A

Worship and witness

Abstract

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.
When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.
Matthew 28:16–18 (NIV)

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40A Trinity Sunday Liturgy Year A

Worship and witness

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020 | AFTER PENTECOST | HOLY TRINITY
YEAR A

Old Testament Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm Psalm 8
New Testament 2 Corinthians 13:11–13
Gospel **Matthew 28:16–20¹**

Jesus has summoned his disciples to a mountain in Galilee. He tells them that all authority is his and that they should make disciples all over the world, baptizing them and teaching them to obey his commandments. He promises to be with them always.W

This week's resources explore: being caught up in the life of God, and helping others to find that life.

Slide	Text
	<p>Pre-Service</p> <p>TIS #668 – “Touch the earth lightly”</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>The word of the eternal Father created us. The love of the gracious Son redeemed us. The presence of the Holy Spirit unites and empowers us. Come and worship the glorious Trinity, our God of power, love and peace.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> All authority on heaven has been given to you, You call us, you welcome us, we gather in your name, Teach us, heal us, and inspire us,</p>

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>Son of God, Loving Lord. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song</p> <p>TIS #477 – “Jesus calls us here to meet him”</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>let us pray</i> O God, you are at the heart of creation. Your word brings life into being; your peace gives living its fulfilment; your Spirit unites us into your Son. We draw near, seeking your love in our hearts; your wisdom in our minds; your power in our lives. Receive us with grace, in the name of your Son. Amen.</p>
	<p>Readings</p> <p><i>Matthew 28:16–20 (NIV)</i> ¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” ²</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video</p> <p>Glorify your name – Hillsong</p>
	<p>We say Sorry</p> <p>Lord Jesus, you send us into the world, but we confess that our vision is narrow; you give us clear commandments,</p>

² [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>but we pretend not to understand them; you promise to be with us always, but we ignore your presence and follow our own way.</p> <p>Forgive us; give us fresh vision and restore us to your way, we pray. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song Facing a task unfinished -</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>Worship, Doubt, and the Trinity Matthew 28:16-20</p> <p>Worship, doubt, and the Trinity — strange thoughts for a worship service you might think, right? The odd one out is obviously doubt, isn't it? Worship is one of the central activities of the faithful. And the Trinity is an essential and distinguishing part of the Christian faith. Clearly, the two go well together.</p> <p>But doubt? How did doubt creep in there? Today we are told, When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. — Matthew 28:17</p> <p>It's a bit of a disappointment. This doubt mixed in there with worship and the Trinity offends us, we want things to be sure and certain, black and white. We want to get it right.</p> <p>We think we want a world governed by a strict binary function, like basic computer code: a one or a zero; either or; this or that; yes or no; you have or you have not; she loves me, she loves me not; you're in or you're out; a success or a failure; you believe or you don't believe.</p> <p>But if that is how God relates to us and deals with us, then I guess I'm out, Maybe it means we're all out, because there aren't many of us has never had any doubts about God and his relationship to us?</p> <p>So, thank God This yes-no thing is an earthly invention And it isn't how God works at all according to the gospel reading for this Trinity Sunday.</p> <p>I spoke with a friend this week, And she suggested she did everything she could to maintain a humble outlook.</p>

And I agree, she does.
 But, maybe in my most vain moments
 I'm tempted to believe
 that if I had been there with Jesus on that mountaintop,
 then I might not have fallen prey to the confusion and doubt that affected
 the disciples.
 But maybe I'm dreaming!

Living on earth, between heaven and hell is not easy.
 On every Sunday,
 in every place where we gather for a mountaintop experience with Jesus,
 it is very much a mixed-bag community of God's people who come together.

Some of us are ready to worship. Some may be full of doubts.
 The mix changes from day to day and from Sunday to Sunday
 Depend on what has happened during our week.
 True, the hope is that in the course of the worship time,
 faith will win out over our doubts,
 but as we gather we are probably a real mixture.

This worship-doubt dilemma isn't solved
 with a sudden download of all the faith and gifts necessary
 so we are immediately transformed into super-saints.
 Hah, as long as we are on this earth
 doubt will always be about in the shadows of our faith journey.
 The only way to deal with the shadow of doubt
 is the shining the light of Christ's presence with us through trust.

Imagine, your kids have bought you a skydiving experience for your birthday.
 At first you think they're nuts
 Then you wonder what it would be like.
 You know that your ability the jump out of that plane
 depends on your trust in the parachute.
 Similarly, the success of obeying Jesus
 and going out on his mission to make disciples of all nations
 in the name of the Triune God does
 not depend on our strengths or abilities,
 but on our trust in the promise of Christ's powerful presence with us,
 even in the face of our doubts.

And, our doubts are not a problem for God,
 as we see in today's gospel reading.
 When Jesus sees his doubting disciples
 he doesn't pull back and hold off.
 He doesn't say, "Okay, you guys are obviously not yet ready;
 come back when you've got some faith!"

Jesus didn't give up on them, in spite of their doubts,
 even after they had seen all of the evidence of his resurrection.
 And he doesn't give up on us either!

Hear these words of affirmation and promise from God's word
attesting to God's desire to use us in his rescue mission of the world.

Paul says to the church at Corinth

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1
Corinthians 12:27).

In Christ we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:16);

we are God's masterpieces, "
created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10).

Peter, who so often swung between bold faith and doubt-filled fears,

wrote that we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's
own people,

in order that [we] may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called [us] out of
darkness

into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

This is all the work of the Triune God,

whose grace is sufficient to deal with every fear that oppresses us,

whose power is made perfect in our weaknesses

And yes, even in our doubts!

The great commission of Matthew 28

shows that our Triune God does not hold back from us.

Verb upon verb is piled up:

go, disciple, baptize, teach, obey, and remember.

And the key is probably that last one: remember.

The only way we ever overcome our doubts and fears

is by remembering what is true and essential.

This week, I bought my granddaughter, Charlotte a bike.

I remember teaching my own kids to ride.

Running behind them,

Telling them not to panic, I was there behind them to hold them up.

When COVID-19 isolation hit

And I became aware I had to do something I panicked.

I didn't know anything about preaching in this environment.

It was only knowing that God was there behind me that held me up

That stopped me panicking and giving up.

It is remembering the promise of Christ's powerful presence with us is what holds
us up.

That memory is the only adequate antidote to the doubts that would infect
us.

The risen Christ is with us, always,

and because all authority has been given to him,

we can dare to go

and make disciples of all nations,

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

Spirit,

	<p>teaching them Christ's way of life.</p> <p>That is our high calling, and there's no doubt about it!</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>Some concepts adapted from: Trinitarian Congregations by David Lose, 2014. http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3254.</p> <p>The Lectionary Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 by Scott Hoezee http://cep.calvin-seminary.edu/sermon-starters/trinity-sunday-a/?type=the_lectionary_gospel.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #411 – “filled with the Spirit's power”</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p>Based on Psalm 8</p> <p>O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Your glory reaches beyond the highest heavens,</p> <p>O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! By the youngest to the eldest your praise is spoken forth,</p> <p>O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! In sky, on land, and in water your creativity is seen,</p> <p>O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!</p> <p>Where there is conflict between nations and within nations; where people live in fear of the bullet and the bomb; when parents weep for children who have been killed: God of peace, may your peace be known.</p> <p>In homes filled with anger, cruelty and neglect; where there are no safe places; where poverty and addiction bring suffering and pain: God of peace, may your peace be known.</p> <p>To those whose minds are tormented by depression; to those whose hold on life is fragile; to those whose lives are filled with stress: God of peace,</p>

	<p>may your peace be known.</p> <p>To those who are nearing the end of life; to those who love and care for them: God of peace, may your peace be known.</p> <p>May your peace be known to us, and may we be bearers of your peace in our world. Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #658 – "Here I am Lord"</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>May the grace of the Father be with you; may the love of the Son enfold you; and may the peace of the Spirit comfort you, today and always. Amen.</p>
	<p>Benediction Benediction</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

