

Sermon Matthew 28 16 20 The Holy Trinity

Sermon: The Holy Trinity Sunday

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

Theme: "...in the name of..."

Goal: We bear the name of our God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What does it mean?

Dear Friends,

Introduction: What is your surname? Please, think a little bit about what does it mean for you and for your family...My surname is Winterle. It is not a noble name, but I like it. It is my identity. It means: A little Winter in the German Swabian dialect: Winter-le. I bear and carry on the name of my father, of my grandfather, of my grand-grandfather, and so on since the seventeenth century as we know. And my children bear the same surname.

I think each of us is proud of his or her surname. We always try to preserve it as a good family name and a reference, so that nobody should be ashamed to bear his or her surname.

What about the name of God? The Holy name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

I – To be baptized in the name of...

A Bible Commentary says that:

“In Judaism this phrase indicated that a person was being effectually committed to something or somebody. One circumcised “in the name of the covenant” was committed to the covenant, brought under its blessing and placed under its obligations. A person baptized 'in the name of the Father' has God as his gracious Father. Baptized 'in the name of the Son', one receives all the benefits of the Son's redeeming act. Baptized 'in the name of

the Holy Spirit' one receives the life-giving, life-sustaining power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the enacted gospel of the Trinity" (CSSB 1497).

God gives us His Holy name as a new surname when we are baptized. We are not anymore "*children of the darkness*", but now we are "*children of the light*", "*children of God*". St. John wrote: "How great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1).

As Christians, we bear the name of God, the Creator and the King of the universe! What a privilege! What a blessing! But what a responsibility as well! We receive a noble title and the promise of a big inheritance. We are citizens of His Holy Kingdom, the Holy Christian Church!

II – To worship in the name of...

As His children, His family, His Church, we come together to worship and serve our God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Order of Service, our Ordinary Liturgy, was built up a long time ago and has a nice development history how the Christians from all times came and come together to worship the Holy Trinity, one God, that reveals Himself as The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit, - a mystery that we cannot explain or understand.

We begin our service "***In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***". It is not just a meeting or a get-together, but it is a Worship Service to honor and to praise our God, at the same time that He gives us His blessings of forgiveness in the Absolution and in the Lord's Supper, and nurture us with His Word and the Sacraments.

At the very beginning of the Service, we present ourselves as "*poor and miserable sinners*", "*imploring **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.***" We cannot come by ourselves, but we come "in the

name of” our Savior, in faith, because He invites us to come and promises to forgive us.

And His promise is true, the pastor can proclaim the forgiveness “*in the stead and by the command of My Lord Jesus Christ*” and he forgives “*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*”.

Forgiven and restored, we praise the Lord our God with the words of a Psalm in the Introit, and we conclude singing “*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.*”

The Kyrie reminds us the Triune God again, when we repeat three times: “*Lord, have mercy on us...*”

In the Gloria in Excelsis, we praise our Triune God: “*O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty... O Lord, the Only begotten Son, Jesus Christ... You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father.*”

In the Prayer of the Day, we always finish it with the words: “*...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*”

In the Creed – The Apostle's Creed, The Nicene Creed or The Athanasian Creed (as we did today), we confess our faith in the Triune God.

The Pastor begins the Sermon with the “*Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.*”

During the Lord's Supper Liturgy, “*with angels and archangels and with all the hosts of heaven we honor and glorify*” the name of our God, evermore praising and singing the triple Sanctus= “*Holy, Holy Holy*”.

After receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, we sing again: *“Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.”*

And in the Thanksgiving Prayer, we conclude saying again: *“...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”*

And be receive the blessing of the Triune God, as His name is put over your head thee times: *“The Lord bless you... The Lord make His face shine on you... The Lord lift up His countenance on you...”*

III – To live in the name of...

So, we bear the name of our God, we worship the name of our God, and we live a daily life *“in the name of our God”*. We are never more the same after God gives us His Holy name. We live in faith, in hope and in obedience, guided by the Holy Spirit.

God is jealous about His name. One of the Ten Commandments specifically warns about His name; and Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayers particularly about the name of God.

The Second Commandment says: *“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.”

The First Petition says: *“Hallowed be Thy name.*

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!"

We praise and worship our God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gave us His Holy name, and we live our life united with Him now and in eternity. Amen.

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle
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