

1 Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20)

Dear Friends:

In the gospel lesson today, following the Resurrection, Jesus has sent the eleven disciples on ahead of him to a mountain-side venue in Galilee. There he meets up with them, and their reactions are mixed. Some understand and accept the reality of the risen Lord, while others have doubts, but all apparently break into worship of Jesus.

This is where Jesus sets the strategy for his followers to implement, as his hands and feet on the ground after his Ascension. They are to go into all “nations,” meaning non-Jews; their ministry not confined to the Jews alone. They are to baptize any and all, bringing them into membership in his Body the Church—though Jesus does not use that metaphor coined by Paul a generation later. And Jesus gives the trinitarian formula for baptism (still in use today), “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” “Teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you,” says Jesus, “and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The last verse of the reading is a most proper assurance to give the newly baptized, but it is clearly not restricted to baptism. “I am with you always, to the end of the age” is just the kind of assurance the faithful are urged to come back to time and again as we work our way through the vicissitudes of life. War-peace, paucity-plenty, sickness-health, riot-calm, pandemic-endemic: Jesus is with us to the end of the age.

Faithfully,
Fr. Reed+ (904)472-4119 cell

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Concluding Collect: For the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of Shanna, Dana, Jim, Walter, Kari, Middi, Brandon and Ted, those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

First Reading—Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the

dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 8 *Domine, Dominus noster*

- 1 O Lord our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
 your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
 to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
 the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
 you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
 you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
 even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
 and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Second Reading—2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Holy Gospel—Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”