

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry

May 31, 2026

The Holy Trinity – First Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.*

Prayer Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p37)

Introduction: Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Matthew 28:16-20

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

What does Jesus' commission to his disciples reveal to us about God?

What does it teach us about our faith?

How does the relationship of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit help us understand: our relationship to God?

To one another?

To the world?

How does the Trinity express the heart of our faith?

How do the sacraments of Baptism and Communion hold the presence of the Trinity?

Read again 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is the image of the Trinity in this letter's conclusion?

How is this pastoral encouragement a model for our own faithful gathering?

Read again Genesis 1:1-2:4a

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

Why do you think this account of creation is read today?

Read and reflect on Psalm 8 if you'd like.

Prayer Requests and Prayer