

## The Holy Trinity

June 15, 2025



### PROCLAMATION POINTS

*The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.*

*Each person is as entirely the whole Godhead (tota divinitas) as if there were no other. And yet it is true that no Person is the Godhead so exclusively that the others are not also the Godhead. This distinction of Persons is so great that only the Person of the Son assumed human nature. . . Therefore the entire science of metaphysics is in error and must be boldly crucified when we are in search of God.*

—Martin Luther—

A Disputation of 1544

### Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

One of the skills taught to newly minted soldiers in any military unit is how to carry, care for, and fire a weapon. Some soldiers are naturally gifted in using firearms, but others need to learn and practice how to aim and fire. There is more to battle, however, than simply firing a weapon. There are tactics that are well thought out, strategies and plans for war that are made to overcome the enemy.

In this text the “wisdom” (v.1) that the writer speaks of is knowledge of the Lord’s ways. In Hebrew the word is חכמה (*hak-mah*) which, in general, means “skill.” But the word often means something more like “strategy” — having an understanding of the tactics of battle.

- *What are the differences between the ability to wield a weapon and the ability to strategize for battle? How does one move from the basics to the deeper knowledge?*

The main point of this passage is that God’s work of creation was not random; his work was done with plan and forethought.

- *Often, people encourage others by saying “God has a plan for your life.” What do you think they mean by that?*
- *How does God make us an active (or interactive) part of his plan for creation?*

### Psalms 8

Think of the most recent time you held a newborn baby in your arms. Did you marvel at the beauty of the human form? Did you ponder the utter dependence upon the infant’s mother that this newborn displayed? Even a baby who is only a few months old and can hold their head up on their own, is a child in absolute need of a parent to care for it.

- *What lesson does God teach us about ourselves as we witness the helpless state of infants?*

The psalmist gives praise to God’s majestic name and speaks words of awe at the wonders of the Lord. So powerful is God’s name and being that “out of the mouths of babies and infants” He established strength. This verse calls to mind St. Paul’s words about God’s strength in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “But (Christ) said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”

- *How does the image of God using infants to establish his strength a powerful reminder of who is in command of all aspects of life? In your weakest moments, how do you center yourself in the strength and majesty of our strong God?*

### Acts 2:14a, 22-36

As Peter preached the Good News to the crowd that had gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost, he proclaimed the entire history of Jesus of Nazareth and put it into context for the listeners to better understand what happened.

He made a very bold statement about Jesus’ death saying, “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it” (v.2:24). Even though Jesus was delivered unto death at the hands of evil men, death could not contain him. The Greek verb used here is *krateo* (Greek: κρατέω (pronounced “kra-tay-oh”) which means “to seize, hold captive, or take one’s power away.”

This proclamation of Peter is one of the chief tenets of our Christian faith. Death could not hold Christ. No earthly power could take away the power of God, not even the final foe — death. Death is very real, but it was not the last word for Jesus. It is not the last word for believers either.

- *In what ways does “death” haunt all of us? How is Peter’s sermon the best news we could hear in the face of our human trials and frailty?*
- *Why is this word about Jesus’ resurrection so important? Do you think the first hearers in Jerusalem were shocked or skeptical of the truth of this message? Have you ever doubted the truth of the resurrection?*

### John 8:48-59

This passage comes at the end of an extended argument and heated exchange with some Jews who had been following Jesus. For some context, read the verses that come just previous to this lesson, in John 8:31-47.

- *Jesus was speaking here to “the Jews who had believed in him” (v. 8:31). Why did he criticize them?*
- *How did Jesus put his hearers on the defensive? What did he say was the cause of his opponents’ unbelief?*

The men gathered around him were incensed by Jesus’ accusation. They, in turn, accused Jesus not only of being a Samaritan, but also having a demon. They were so angry, they were ready to stone him.

- *In many people’s descriptions, Jesus is often portrayed as meek and mild, non-judging and loving to all. How does the real Jesus in Scripture fit this imagined image?*
- *Does a non-confrontational and submissively tolerant person tend to cause such a negative reaction? How does a lesson like this help to explain why Jesus was crucified?*