

SERMON – TRINITY SUNDAY (FATHERS DAY) – 19 JUNE 2011
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled; without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity

The Athanasian Creed

I read one time that there was more heresy preached from the pulpit of our churches on Trinity Sunday than any other time of the year.

The fact is that there is no one, except God himself, who understands the Trinity. We don't have to understand the Trinity. We just need to believe it.

From Saint Patrick using the Shamrock to many and quite complicated explanations and illustrations, the fact still remains that we are incapable of understanding how this whole Trinity business works.

It's like we do not know how the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It just does. It is a mystery.

The Trinity is a mystery.

Some things just need to remain a mystery.

Paul wrote, **1 Corinthians 13:12 (KJV)** *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

Someday, God willing, we will understand. But for now, let it remain a mystery.

How do we believe in a concept like the Trinity or the transformation of the bread and wine in to the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord?

It is by faith, by Faith alone. **Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Jesus told Thomas basically the same thing in **John 20:29 (KJV)** *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

Most of us just stumble through life anyway, hoping for the best and having a kind of simple faith that God will take care of us. That ain't all bad. We could do a lot worse.

Thomas Merton wrote in Thoughts In Solitude, *My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

That is Faith, not some irresponsible drifting through life, but a simple, yet sincere, faith that God is always there and that we can count on Him always being there; no matter what.

David also wrote about that kind of faith **Psalms 23:1 (KJV)**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Faith in God shouldn't be complicated. There is so much that we mere, as Pogo used to call us, *human beans* do not have to make difficult. We do not have to know how and what about everything. It doesn't really matter.

All we have to do is have faith to believe; Like a little child.

Jesus tell us that. **Luke 18:17 (KJV)** *Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.*

All we are really called to do is have a simple, childlike faith in Jesus; that He is our Lord and Savior, our ONLY Lord and Savior; that he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary; that he lived as one of us and died on the Cross for our sins and that he rose from the dead and is now ascended into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father.

We believe that God is Triune, that there is the Trinity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We have to believe that He will return and judge us all.

It's that simple. Only theologians have to complicate it so that can justify themselves and their existence. You and I don't.

Amen.