

The title for today's message is: **"Rejoice In The Day"**

Jesus said: ***Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.***"

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday, a time in which the whole church honors the mystery of God's triune nature.

And how appropriate it is to observe Holy Trinity Sunday on the first Sunday after Pentecost, the time when the Holy Trinity was revealed.

That God indeed is three individual persons, yes, all in one person, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A teaching that is without a doubt beyond our human comprehension and can only be understood and believed with the help of the Holy Spirit.

And today, in a world of universalism and pluralism, which there is much confusion as to the identity of God.

Its very important, to emphasize, that the one, and only true God is indeed the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So the bottom line is if you believe in a god, that is one who doesn't include the triune God, its not the true God, but nothing more than a false god.

And that's why its so important for all of us to understand, and accept the two natures of God, that is His human, and spiritual natures.

Now to put today's Gospel into context, you should remember that its a continuation of the very public debate between Jesus, and the Jewish people.

Where Jesus had just pointed out to them, that they were not of God, but rather they were of the evil one, that's right, Satan.

At which they responded harshly, using some of the strongest insults they could muster. Which brings us to today's text.

What the Jews accused Jesus of being in the first verse was serious. They said: ***“Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”***

You see, back in those days, as far as the Jews were concerned, to be a demon possessed Samaritan, you were a real loser. The enemy.

You see unlike the Jews, Jesus loved the Samaritan people, just as much as He loved the Jews, and for that matter all people of the world.

Jesus answered saying: ***“I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.*** Ouch! That heart?

Here Jesus commends Himself to the One who will defend His honor, He said: ***Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.***

Here, Jesus seems to add fuel to the fire, by saying: ***Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.***”

And like so many times before, the statement Jesus made here, made absolutely no sense to those who he was addressing. None.

They knew that Abraham and the prophets died years ago, yet they truly believed and followed God's Word, more than anyone. Yet they died Right?

So as far as the Jews were concerned, there wasn't any truth at all in what Jesus just said.

So, they said to Jesus: ***“Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’*** What do you say about that Jesus?

Now, having said this, they were lead to ask yet another question. A question which required an answer that Jesus was unable to answer yet.

They asked Jesus, if He thought He was greater than their father Abraham, and all the Prophets of the past.

And of course the answer to this is, Yes. Jesus is greater than Abraham and the Prophets of the past.

Now, if Jesus had said that He was greater, the Jews there would not have been able to understand, especially in their spiritual blindness.

And they would have surly stoned Jesus to death right then and there. But it wasn't His time to die yet.

Instead, Jesus answers with another truth. He tells them that He isn't trying to glorify Himself. No!

Jesus did say to them: ***“If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God.”***

Yes, the truth is, Glory and Honor, can only come from outside oneself, something Jesus certainly affirms quite well here.

He said that, His glory comes from the One True God, His Father in heaven. Ironically, its the same God that the Jews identify, as their God.

Well, its clear by this, that the Jews had a problem. Here the Jews are rejecting Jesus, the One whom God sent.

And by rejecting Jesus, the One True God the Jews called their own, wasn't their God at all.

And it's the same for those today who say they believe in God, but deny the existence of the Trinity.

Look, anyone who denies the existence of the Holy Trinity, denies the existence of God, case closed. Period.

Look, many churches today teach that God is God, not three God's in one, but only one God. That anything else is just nonsense.

They also say that when in the Bible it speaks of the Father, Its God, and when it speaks of the Son, Its just God Himself with another name.

And when it speaks of the Holy Spirit, again, its just God with yet another name.

So, I guess the question for us here today is; how do we see God? Now as Lutherans we see one God, but in three persons, yes, the triune God.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, working in unison with one another.

And its true, this is a concept which is very heard, if not imposable to truly understand. But it shouldn't be hard to accept. After all, God doesn't lie.

Now, to make His point, Jesus told them that they really didn't know the Father, at all. Okay, what's all this about. More confusion?

Jesus then tells them that He in fact, does know the Father, and made it perfectly clear that He Himself keeps the Fathers Word, perfectly.

This in of itself caused the Jews to boil over with anger. I mean how dare He say this, they knew that no one can keep God's Word perfectly.

Except of course, for the One whom the Father sent, Jesus Christ His only Son. Yes, the same Jesus, they rejected and killed.

So what is God telling us here, on this Holy Trinity Sunday. Just what is the message here?

That only if you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit can you believe in the One True God the Father.

That if we're as stubborn and blind as the Jews, and refuse to recognize Jesus as Son of God and our savior, in spite of all the evidence.

Then the One True God isn't our God either, and we will be damned to spend an eternity in Hell. My friends, this is serious business.

You may say, its too hard to understand the Trinity, but just remember this; its not important that we understand how the Trinity can be.

But that its only important for you and me to accept and believe in the Holy Trinity.

That there is indeed, a God the Father, and a God the Son, and a God the Holy Spirit, three persons in one, who is indeed the One and only True God.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.