

Know Me!

Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry
King of Glory Lutheran Church
Holy Trinity Sunday; John 16:12-15
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[Jesus said,] ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

God’s grace and peace to us through the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit.

The man sat back from his perch on the rock. He let the sun fall warm upon his face, while he listened to the babbling brook. With his fishing pole in his hand, he thought to himself, “Now this is my kind of church! God has created everything I see, feel and hear.”

A woman came forward for Holy Communion. She had been struggling deeply within herself for the whole week. Yet she had prayed for forgiveness; sought it from Jesus. When she heard those familiar words and tasted the bread and wine, a deep peace came over her. “Oh, thank you, Jesus!” she prayed silently. She knew she was forgiven.

A teenager reading his Bible one night, came upon a scripture - a proverb he had never heard. He read it several times because it caught his attention. It fit exactly a challenge he’d been having with a friend. The young man remembered what the pastor had said about the Holy Spirit leading us to understanding. He was delighted and more curious.

In the Early church, people began to have various experiences of God. Therefore, the concept of a three-fold expression of God arose from those experiences and what they read in scripture. They asked, “How can we have common language about your perception, your understanding of God and mine, so that our life of worship together is enhanced?” They put their heads together, got in passionate fights arguing about words, kicked each other out of the church and yet, still, arrived at language in multiple creeds that gave expression to God the Father-Creator, God the Son-Savior, and God the Holy Spirit-Sustainer.

Although the words Triune God never appear in scripture, Jesus often references, all three persons of the Trinity. And in almost every page of the New Testament, we can read about knowing Jesus through God and the Holy Spirit.

But we don't follow a doctrine. We don't worship a concept. We follow and worship the Incarnate Jesus, sent by God and made known to us through the Holy Spirit. It's what the disciples were trying to do all along. On the night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus tells the disciples, "I have more to say to you, but you cannot bear those words now. But the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth."

What they couldn't bear was His upcoming trial and crucifixion. Yet it was His final promise of the work of the Spirit. The Spirit would guide them into truth after His resurrection and ascension.

Has anyone ever guided you into truth? Guiding is different than steamrolling. While we all groaned appropriately at our Dad's jokes hoping it would persuade, it was never quite enough to make him stop telling them.

The Holy Spirit guides. There are times for certain that she hits us with a 2 x 4. But most of us notice a quiet nudge. A still small voice. A red thread that becomes a yarn and then a rope to hold onto.

In Proverbs, Wisdom stands in the streets calling out to the people; to all who live. She was there at the beginning of creation with God the Father. She remained with Jesus and then came upon the whole church.

What wisdom are you seeking today? What answers are you longing to know? Perhaps asking Jesus to send the Spirit for guidance is just what you need for direction or comfort or advice.

Perhaps seeking the Spirit's guidance is just what we as a community need right now. How do we speak up for God's truth? How do we protect our innocent neighbors?

At the end of the day, know this truth. God wants us to know God. The man worshiping God in the mountains knows God. The woman at the Communion table knows God. The teenager through scripture and the Spirit are coming to know God.

Therefore, God has given us multiple ways to access the divine mystery named God. Through the three persons of the Trinity, each with their different functions and responsibilities, we come to know this God who loves us beyond understanding this God of compassion, and grace. For that we give thanks! Amen.