

5/31/26
Holy Trinity
For Group Meetings from May 24th – May 30th

OUR MISSION: As a missional congregation we *celebrate* Christ's presence, *invite* people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and *equip* them to *serve* in a broken world.

Prayer of the Day: 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.**

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Acts 2:1-21) work in your life this week?

Mission:

- What was most satisfying about your ministry last week?
- Where do you see God at work?
- How did you participate in God's missional activity?
- How did inviting go last Sunday?

Hear: Matthew 28:16-20

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Where do the disciples meet Jesus in this passage, and why might that location matter?
2. What authority does Jesus claim in verse 18?
3. What promise does Jesus make at the end of the passage?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Who has helped disciple you in your faith journey? What did they do that was meaningful?
2. Share a time when you experienced a moment where faith and doubt existed together.
3. How have you grown as a disciple in the past few years? Where do you sense you are still growing?

Memorize this verse: "And teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) When have you been especially grateful for Jesus' presence?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Meditate on Psalm 8. How does this speak into your life?

Reflect: What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

Ever notice that the close of Matthew's Gospel, a passage we usually refer to as "the Great Commission," ends with a promise? I sometimes get so caught up in the grandeur and significance of the Great Commission that I overlook this promise – "And I am with you always, to the end of the age." I don't think this is an accident. I suspect that our only hope of fulfilling the great commission – sharing the good news of God's grace in Christ with the world through word and deed and welcoming all into fellowship through Baptism – is by keeping in mind this promise: Christ will be with us. Except notice Jesus' language: it's not just future tense. Christ is with us. Even now. Even here. Even amid our struggles at home or at work or at church or in the world. Christ is with us. Encouraging us, comforting us, working with us, guiding us, granting us the grace and courage necessary to be the people of God in the world right now.

Frankly, I wonder if we remember that God is with us. Maybe we remember in times of tragedy or loss, when even the most infrequently religious of us call on God for some extra help. But what about all the other times. Good times, not so good times, joyous times, sad times, expectant times, anxious times. Do we sense God's presence? As I write this, I know of one friend anxiously awaiting the outcome of a surgery of a spouse. And another who has recently lost her job. And one more who is celebrating a much better school year than he'd imagined possible. And yet one more who is navigating a recent retirement. Do they sense God's presence? Some, I expect, do, but others perhaps do not. So may you remember that God goes with you through everything life brings your way. The very last thing that Matthew records of everything Jesus said and did is a promise: "And I am with you always, to the end of the age." Right here, right now, and forever.

This coming weekend is Trinity Sunday. And I will confess that I don't completely understand the Trinity as a concept or doctrine – and that I don't completely believe those who say they do! – but I do know that at the heart of the Trinity is the belief that God both communal and loving. One God in three persons whose shared, mutual, and sacrificial love spills out into the world and all its inhabitants. And that, ultimately, we are called to be church in a similar way. Loving, respecting, and caring for each other in a way that spills out into our neighborhoods and communities in tangible ways. And that's part of what promises do. They bind us together, they provide hope, and they create courage to live with each other, support each other, forgive each other, and encourage each other. At the heart of every authentic and nurturing relationship is a promise. A promise that is a whole lot like Jesus' promise: I will be with you. I am for you. You can count on me. I've got your back. Let's see what we can do together.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Thadd (tbook@desertcross.org)

Traditional version:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power,
And the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Contemporary version:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
Who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen