

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. By the power of Holy Baptism we embrace the Triune God;

II. By the power of Holy Baptism the Triune God lives in us.

Romans 6:1-6

TEXT: *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...*

In Jesus name, my fellow redeemed:

Don't fall for that straw man argument that the Jehovah's Witness group likes to use when saying that the word "Triune" or "Trinity" is not in the Bible. They like make that point because they do not believe in the Triune God. They feel so superior when they can catch an unsuspecting Christian with this and watch them page frantically through their Bibles, only to discover that the words "trinity" and "triune" actually not in Scripture.

However, God has clearly revealed Himself throughout Scripture, from Genesis to the Revelation, as ONE GOD who is at the same time THREE DISTINCT PERSONS. So to confess this truth, the Christian Church did indeed invent a name for this truth God has revealed about Himself: TRIUNE. This word stands for the only true God who is above all comprehension. God is ONE and His "personhood" is distinct: Father (who is true God but not the Son or the Holy Spirit); the Son (who is true God, but not the Father nor the Holy Spirit); and the Holy Spirit (who is true God, but neither the Father nor the Son).

It was Jesus, the Son of God, who commanded the Church to Baptize ***"in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*** Notice that Jesus said, "in the name of..." and not "in the names of..." While the name of the Triune God surpasses all comprehension, even among the angels whom He created, the simple application of water in the name of the Triune God works an amazing miracle. By it we embrace the Triune God in true faith, and by Holy Baptism, the Triune God comes to live in us.

We were graciously privileged to have witnessed this miracle among us this morning. According to Scripture, baby Landry was born again. Jesus Himself declared: ***I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*** Jn 3 Only God can do such things! Not only has He created humans and enabled us to produce children, but He has promised to send His Holy Spirit to work the miracle of spiritual life, faith, in the heart of spiritually dead humans so that even little babies know Jesus even as they know their earthly fathers and mothers. And to know Jesus is to know the Triune God. For Jesus has declared: ***I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as***

well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him. Jn 14 From now on, we are assured by the power of God and His promise through Holy Baptism, that little Landry, by the miracle of the Holy Spirit, knows Jesus and His Father as well.

Why is this so important? Just review Old Testament Bible History to see how easily God's chosen nation of Israel was misled from knowing the Triune God who raised up Israel to be His chosen nation. While Moses was up on Mt. Sinai, retrieving God's written Law, Scripture says that Israel fell into gross idolatry. The Bible says: ***When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf ... Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."*** Ex 32 As far as the people were concerned, as long as there was a sincere acknowledgment of God in some form or another, they were acceptable to God. Even Moses' brother, Aaron fell to this false doctrine, for he declares a special day of worship "to the Lord."

How wrong they were! And how wrong are all who still hold to this error even today! We are surrounded by a people and a culture that has no patience knowing the one and only true God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They have fashioned their own god by their own reason and arrogantly decide for themselves how they will worship and follow their gods. You know people like this. They will decide what is moral and good, even if their ideas are contrary to what God has written in Scripture. Concerning these people who believe and teach these things God's Apostle warns: ***I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*** Ro 16

With the simple application of water in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the Lord creates the arms of faith that embraces the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom God has sent. And by this blessed Sacrament of Baptism, the Triune God embraces us and lives in us!

Our prayer for little Landry and for us and all who are baptized into the name of the Triune God who has embraced us is that none of us ever wiggle free from that blessed embrace. Paul warns against this in his letter to the Romans: ***What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*** Ro 6. Ancient Israel falsely assumed that just because God had chosen them to be His people they didn't have to worry about following him, but they could do as they pleased. That can happen, as Paul writes to the Romans. That still happens to this day. An example is when people bring their children to Holy Baptism and then never bring them back to Jesus in worship or in the study of His Word. Or, they bring them to Holy Baptism where the Holy Spirit creates faith and spiritual life, but then by their own wicked example, they put obstacles of sinful behavior before them and neglect their spiritual training. Jesus issued this powerful warning: ***I tell you the truth,***

unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ... But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Mt 18

By God's gracious choosing, He gives us the means by which He is fully embraced even by little children. Woe to all who teach little children to wiggle free from that embrace so as to lose their faith and die forever, in hell!

On the other hand, Paul continues in his letter to the Romans: *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...*

How beautifully and powerful is this truth portrayed! We get wet in baptism; Jesus gets crucified. And the power of this baptism is in that God says that we are united in Jesus crucifixion and death so that the power of sin is destroyed. And not only that, but by that same baptism are we also united in what happened next: Jesus rose from the dead and so will we!

So that our children who are baptized know this, we teach them about Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection! What God has begun in them, He continues to do through the study of His Word so that one day our little children are able to discern His REAL PRESENCE in the Lord's Supper, and that His cross is dangled before their eyes of faith even up to their dying day!

Then they also will teach their children and their children's children so that the name of the Triune God who has embraced us to be His own, now and forever will be upon us for eternity. Amen